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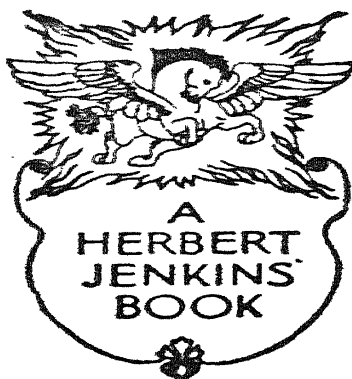


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UP THE GARDEN PATH



First printing



THIS BOOK IS PRODUCED IN
COMPLETE CONFORMITY WITH THE
AUTHORISED ECONOMY STANDARDS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author desires to make the following acknowledgments

Reproduced by permission of the Proprietors of *Punch* are the sketches that appear on pages 8, 10, 44, 52, 53 and 65. Thanks are also due to *Guide and Ideas* for the frontispiece and those on pages 14, 22, 29 (lower), 49 (top), 69, 75 (top), 76 (lower), 77, 80: To *Answers* those on pages 13, 75 (lower), 81: To *Topical Times* that on page 16: To the *Daily Express* on pages 19 and 70 (lower): To *London Opinion* on pages 21, 51, and 73: To *The Leader* on pages 26, 70 (top): *The Star* on pages 39 and 67: *Illustrated* 34 and 68: To *Blighty* 18, 74, and to *Razzle* for that on page 64 (lower).

To
T. TOOTE

*All characters in this book are fictitious, and are not intended to represent
any person, living or dead. So there.*

UP THE GARDEN PATH

THERE are several types of gardens. There are front gardens, kitchen gardens, bedroom gardens, back gardens, halfback gardens, inside-forward gardens, zoological gardens, hanging gardens and swinging gardens.

But for the purpose of supplementing the government's Dig-for-Deer-Life campaign, to which this book is dedicated, we shall confine ourselves principally to a discussion directed around back gardens.

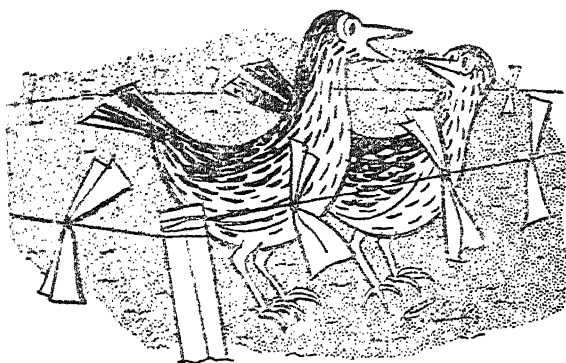
The back garden is often situated at the rear of the house, and is easily discerned as facing the door which has no knocker. It is generally in the open air although, in colder districts, many back gardens are rolled up and taken indoors at night.

It is usually entered through a wooden contraption called a door which swings open on a hinge. Many doors in nicer districts possess two hinges, one on which the door swings open with an anti-clockwise motion, and the other on which it swings closed with an anti-aircraft bang.

The door, of course, was originally devised to save gardeners the inconvenience of perpetually climbing over a fence, at the same time eliminating the existence of a great gaping hole through which draughts can penetrate.

Shapes and Sizes.

The back garden can be of practically any shape. Some are oblong, obtuse, obstinate, triangular or rectangular, whilst others are quadrilateral, bilateral, bibritish, bibyes,



"The seeds are good, but the decorations aren't up to last year's."

round, oval, circular, conical, comical, chronicle, square, squiggly, or squat. Circumstances, however, generally decide the shape of the back garden; circumstances such as the shape of things to come and which way the weather faces.

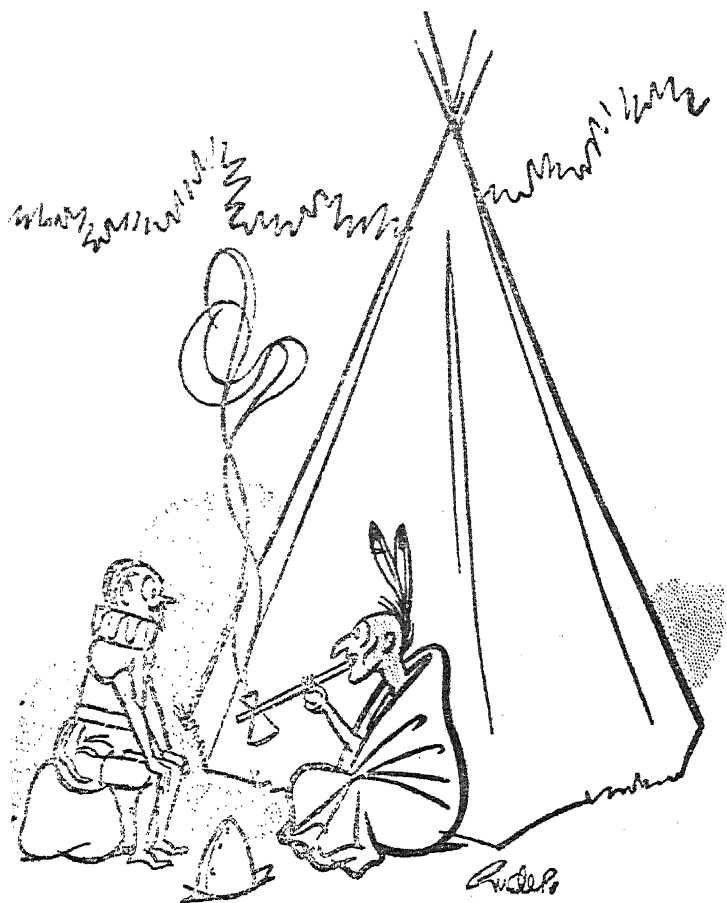
Most gardens are bounded by wooden fences (or fences). These are generally made of wood (although in some cases they are made of wood).

These fences are supported by stout stakes (or stakes) which are driven into the ground at regular intervals about a year and a half apart. Fences which are not supported by stakes driven into the ground, however, abound on the North-West Indian frontier, and are kept up mainly by black magic, hoodoo and hokey-pokey.

The gardener who is unable to obtain an adequate supply of hokey-pokey is advised to stick to the stout stake method, although in some places a shortage of stout stakes necessitates their being substituted by pale ale poles.



"He thought my skirt was widow's weeds."

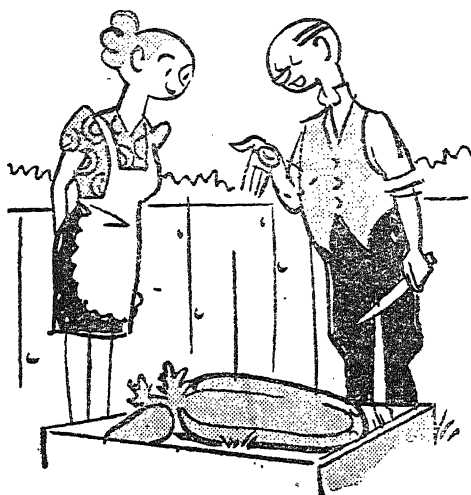


"Then, if people got to like it, you could always put a tax on it."

Process of Erection.

The stakes are next joined by two long pieces of wood, one about eighteen inches from the ground and the other, parallel, about two feet (or one Carnera carpet-slipper) above. Care should be taken to fasten these strips of wood securely to the stout stakes to avoid the possibility of their floating in mid-air. Glue, nails or bootlace are popular mediums; stamp paper or saliva should not be used.

Next fasten planks to these parallel strips of wood, and your fence is complete. If firmly erected, the fence forms an excellent medium for throwing things over; empty gin flagons, weeds, salmon cans and suchlike. If



"Another five minutes and it should be just right."

there are no salmon cans in your garden, broken bricks make a good substitute. Take the brick in the left hand and apply a series of sharp blows with a blunt instrument,

such as the thick end of a wedge or the wrong side of a razor. Toss both halves of the broken brick into the air at an angle of forty-five degrees to the horizontal in the direction of the neighbouring garden. The gardener thus breaking bricks is known as a brick-breaker, in the same way as a man spraying trees against blight is known as a blighter, and the man spraying trees against bugs is known as a scoundrel.



DRAINING SPADE
No. 1. *T-shaped*
handle. Long, narrow, curving blade sloping towards a point. Strong shaft.

DRAINING SPADE
No. 2. *T-shaped*
handle. *S-shaped*
shaft, making it more difficult for sweat to trickle down as far as the ground.



The Garden Path.

No garden is complete without a path (or path).

The marked decrease this year in the number of garden paths is causing grave concern amongst members of the Royal Topographical and Bottomatical Society and the necessity for us all to have something up which to lead people cannot be too heavily stressed.

For a small garden a 2 ft. 6 in. path should be ample, but in the case of a larger garden it is advisable to lay a 2 ft. 6½ in. path of gravel. If gravel is unobtainable, drivel forms a good substitute.

Precautions.

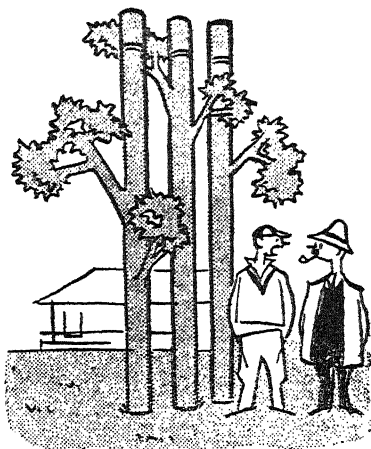
I always nail the sides of my gravel paths to prevent Codger lifting it to sweep used paper underneath. During

windy weather, Codger recommends paperweights for paths, but for fuller information on this topic write to Codger himself.

Letters will reach him at:—

Codger himself,
c/o Public Bar,
"The Chest and Hairs,"
Mutch Hammering,
Eiethersex.

"Harrison, you must try and remember to draw stumps at the end of each season."

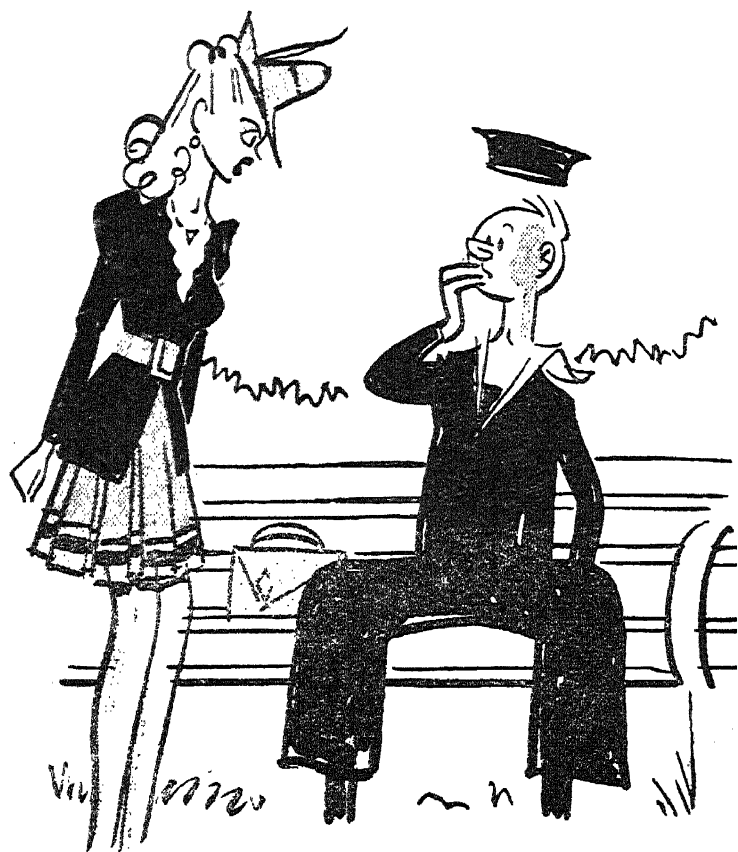


Enclose sixty stamped, unaddressed envelopes to cover the cost of fluid nourishment.

Before laying the gravel path, the soil should be turned over with a spade. Make sure that the spade travels deep into the earth; a mile and a quarter is sufficient for sandy soils.

The Arbour.

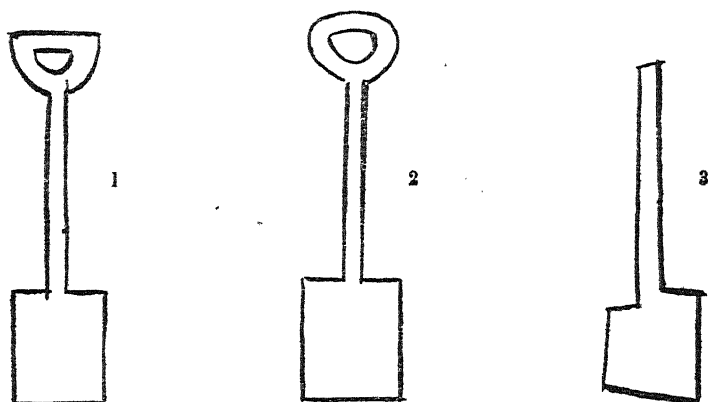
The path should terminate in an arbour of, say, white clematis or yellow jasmine (pronounced jasmine). The latter appears during summer in the most beautiful blooms



"And who is this Daisy I look as fresh as?"

(pronounced blooms) although, in very hot weather, my own younger jasmine appears sometimes in knicks (pronounced improvement).

In the case of larger gardens, the path can be dispensed with and an arterial road substituted. Some of the most modern gardens even replace arterial roads with aeroplane slipways which are constantly in radio co-ordination with amphibian lilies on a pond.



DIGGING SPADE NO. 1. *D-shaped handle for working light soils.*

DIGGING SPADE NO. 2. *W.C.-shaped handle for loosening roots.*

DIGGING SPADE NO. 3. *B.F.-shaped blade. No handle. For use on music halls.*

Noises On and Off.

In larger gardens it is customary to dispense with the harbour of yellow jasmine and to substitute the hooisit, or red telephone kiosk. These are generally planted, about two hundred miles apart, along the sides of arterial roads to cater for motorists whose cars have broken down. In twenty minutes the telephone kiosk will grow from an interrupted, high-pitched pip into a full-blown crescendo.

It is usual to plant it in muddy, slimy soil where rain falls continuously, and to mark it with a seed packet labelled "Engaged." Actually the telephone kiosk seldom marries.

We have now fenced in our garden, then, and have decided on the direction and position of our gravelled path. Now that most of the cream of British manhood is serving in H.M. Forces it is no longer necessary to have your garden next door to a nightwatchman's wife, but once you have got right on speaking terms, it is advisable to consider carefully what to grow in your garden.

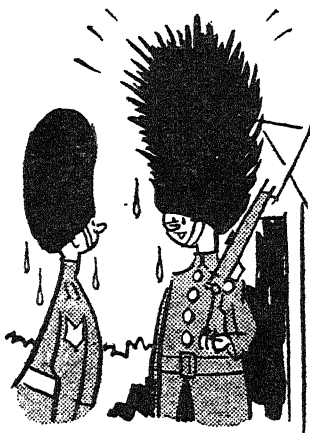
Hop, Hop, Hooray!

For the dark, vivacious type, grow hops. These are invaluable socially in summer weather, and in winter they are invaluable socially. Hops in spring and summer are, of course, socially invaluable. To cultivate them properly it will be necessary to do away with the greenhouse and

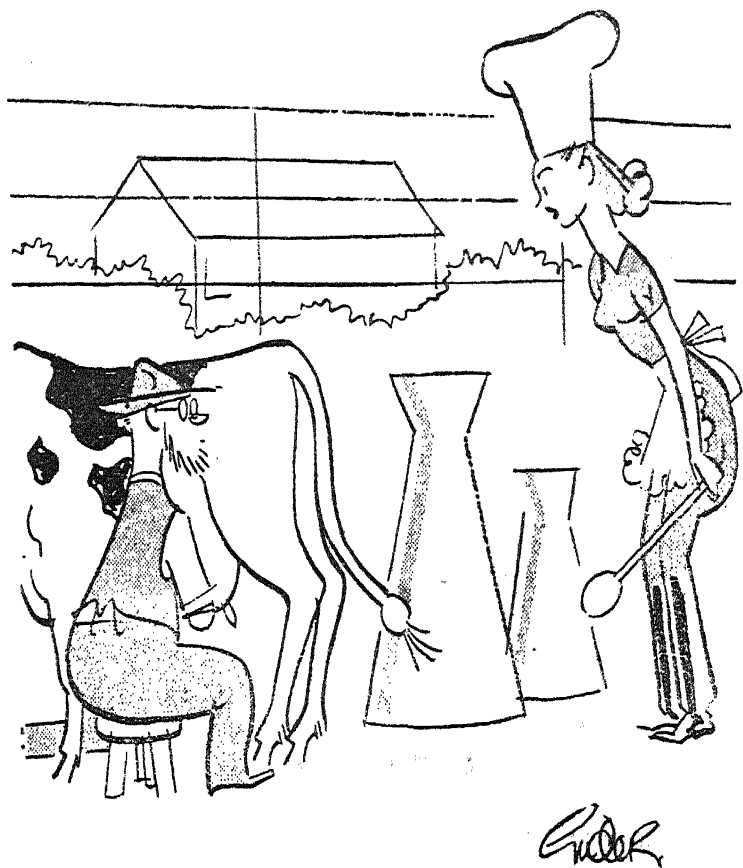
to erect a brewery with all possible speed. The danger of your neighbour changing houses or of the war finishing cannot be too heavily emphasized.

For gardeners with the slim, snaky, blonde type of neighbour, grapes are advisable. These make an excellent sherry and, if deriving their nourishment from a heavy soil, are utilised as weights on Whitehall diplomats' whiskers to conceal the absence of a dicky.

If your neighbour is the quiet, unostentatious type, it is possible to convert her slim curves into veritable corners by raising a rye crop from which whiskey can be distilled.



"Some shower that, Sarge!"



"Breakfast's ready, Farmer Gosh, but the milk hasn't arrived yet."

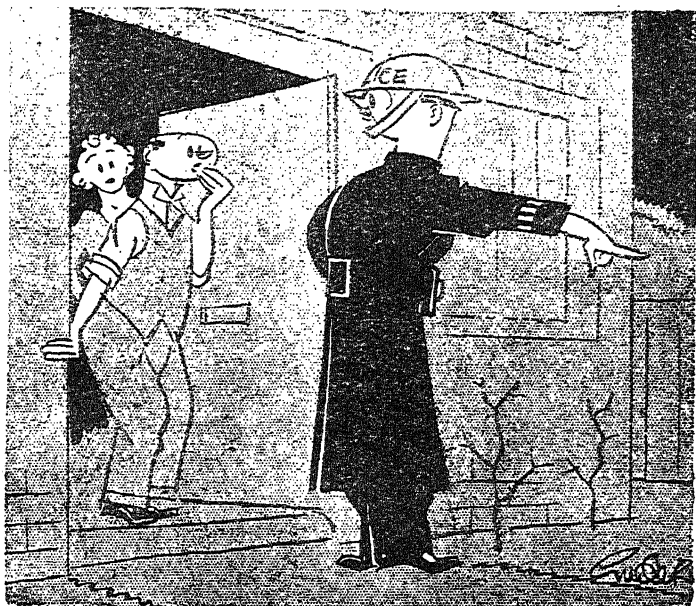
UP THE GARDEN PATH



"And I'm simply dying to see your calves, Farmer Tuttle."

A few bottles of this will work wonders ; in fact, it is possible that servicemen's wives from all over the country will flock to become your neighbour.

Codger tells me that he once put an acre of his own garden under rye in wartime, and that women simply fell



"There's a chink of light showing from a glow-worm in your garden."

over one another to get next door. Many of them, if I know Codger, didn't even live as far away as next door. On top of this, the soldiers at the front heard of Codger's rye crop and came dashing home, not to claim their wives, but to be certain of getting a share in the whiskey he distilled. This probably accounts for the sudden end of the Napoleonic wars.

Codger says that the raising of rye is generally carried out by the rotation system.

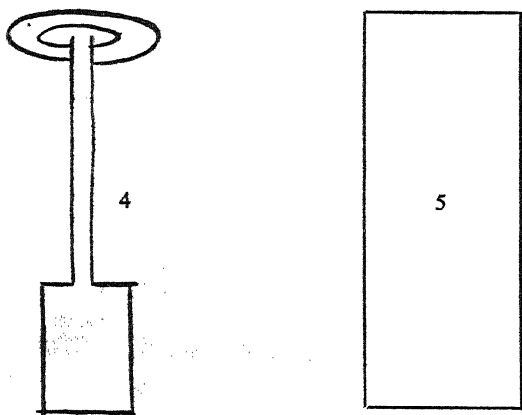
Never sow rye two years in succession. From what I can gather, it is customary for Codger to sow rye one year—and mail bags the next. The following year Codger generally picks hemp and then, next year, rye again (and sow on).

All About It.

For further details on this discussion, read Codger's *Manure Manual*, *Pulling Lily's*, and *How to Pluck Up Courage* (Hipkin & Slur, 10d.).

Having dealt thoroughly with the food aspect of the garden, let us now turn our attention to vegetables, fruit, etc.

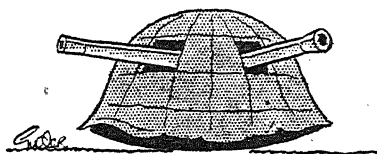
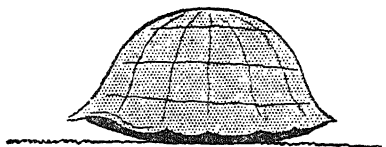
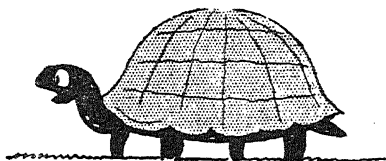
It is impossible to overestimate the importance of these to Britain in time of war.



DIGGING SPADE No. 4. *Strong shaft. Steering wheel. For use on roads.*
DIGGING SPADE No. 5. *No handle. No shaft. No blade. For use by miners during coal strikes.*

The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that if every citizen begins cultivating his garden to the fullest possible extent, there will be enough melons alone to keep eleven million garage doors open. In addition to this, the pips available will be sufficient to supply the peashooters of thirteen Borstal boys, thus releasing 33,822,709 gross of peas for police whistles.

Think how enormous, therefore, are the possibilities opened up by cultivation of the home garden.



Evolution.

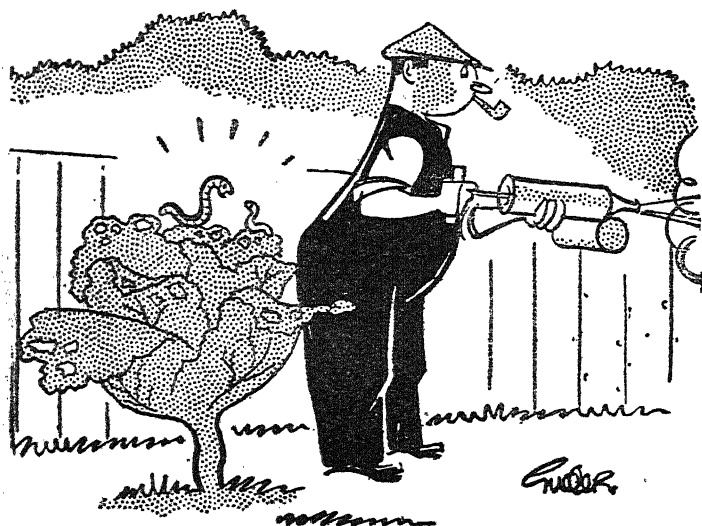
More Detail.

Did you know that the husk of the young turnip is invaluable in Germany today as a raw material for mending milk carts, and that the cactus kernel is bad for asthma and keeps up trousers? The virtual potency of vegetables is enormous. It is an established fact that the runner bean, ground to powder and remoulded, makes a more effective razor blade than is on the market today, and that porridge grown in moist soils forms an excellent substitute for slime.

No vegetable garden is complete without a rockery.

The rockery usually occupies a shady corner where most of the dirty work is done, and is built of old bricks,

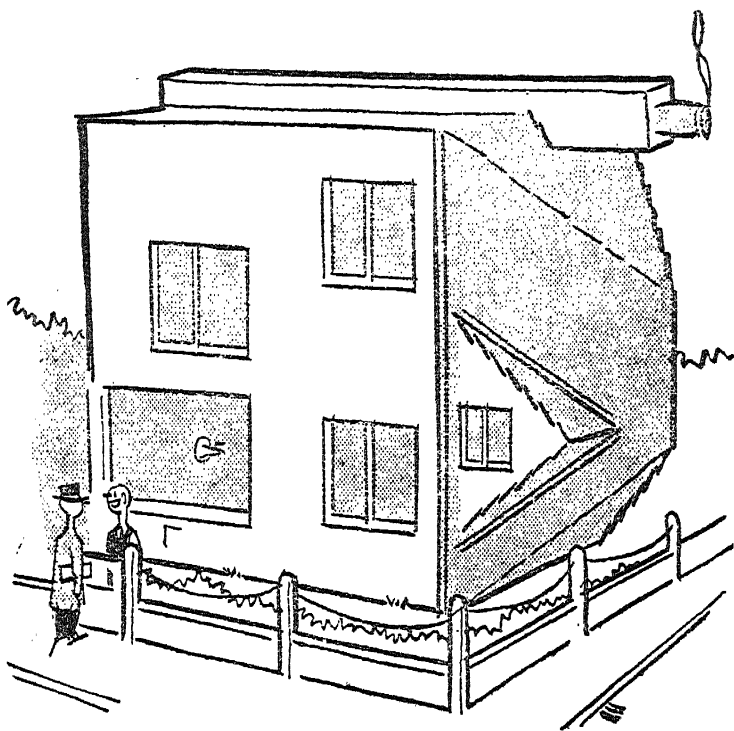
clinkers, large stones, hefty rocks, high explosives, hobnails, or any material that may be available. Several kinds of rock are suitable, but Codger says the best are Gibraltar Rock, Rock of Ages, Rock Bottom and Southend Rock. These types apparently last twice as long as granite and taste nicer. The rockery should be covered with an inch or two of dirt. If dirt is not obtainable, filth is a good substitute.



"How many times have I told you not to eat cabbage till the man's disinfected it!"

Horseradish.

Devote a space in your garden to horseradish which, folded in half, makes an excellent stopper to gin bottles. The horseradish grows best in heavy soils. Soils weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. or even 2 cwt. are suitable. Break up the soil in the winter, and make a row of holes with a dibble. Procure



"Actually, I'm seldom home till bedtime."



Triangular hoe.



Dutch hoe.



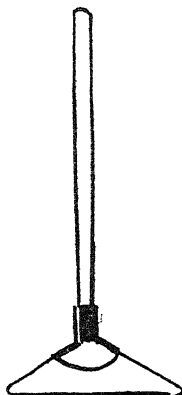
High hoe.



Hay hoe.



What hoe?

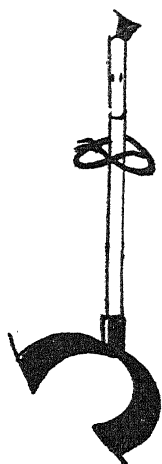


Westward hoe!

some crowns of old horseradish and ram them into the holes which should not be filled up. If your horseradish is not through by June, then you possibly rammed celery into the holes in error. Many people prefer wild horseradish, which has a more delicate, flavour, like soot. Compared with wild horseradish, the ordinary variety is a little tame, and long ago gave rise to the expression "Tame, gentlemen, please."

Asparagus.

Asparagus will thrive in stiff, heavy soils. With this object in view, I always dress my asparagus beds with stable manure to acquire the correct stiffness, although Codger says it is advisable to send them to a laundry. Asparagus should be well protected from cold winds by a high fence on the north side of the beds. To keep them free of weeds use a little calcium cyanamide at two ounces to the square yard. A practical additional protection is a mousetrap.



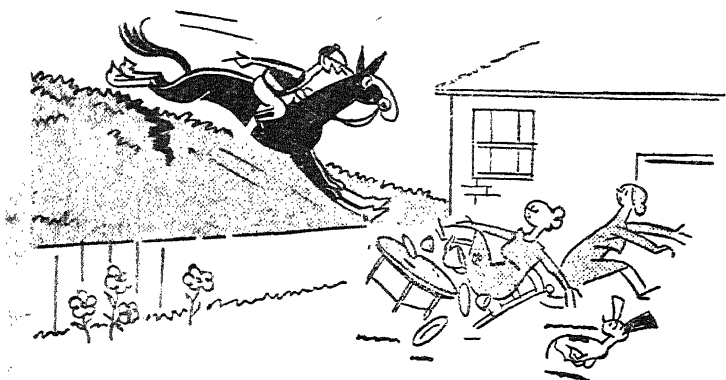
Yo hoe.

Artichokes.

Jerusalem Artichokes are still popular in England although on the Continent they grow mainly in concentration camps. The artichoke can be distinguished by the name "Artichoke" on the seed packet, and it derives its name from Greek "Horridcough." It requires a rich, light soil and plenty of moisture. Codger says a gallon of tubers will plant forty yards of rows. This constitutes a certain indication that the "Chest and Hairs" has been granted an extension.

Peas.

A rich, light loam, free from new dung, is best for early peas. For late peas, however, a hearty thwack with a wet bag is advisable. Very late varieties should be uprooted. Peas should be planted during the warmest months of the year. December and January are generally the most suitable. Never water peas in really hot weather. Fan them and unbutton their pods.

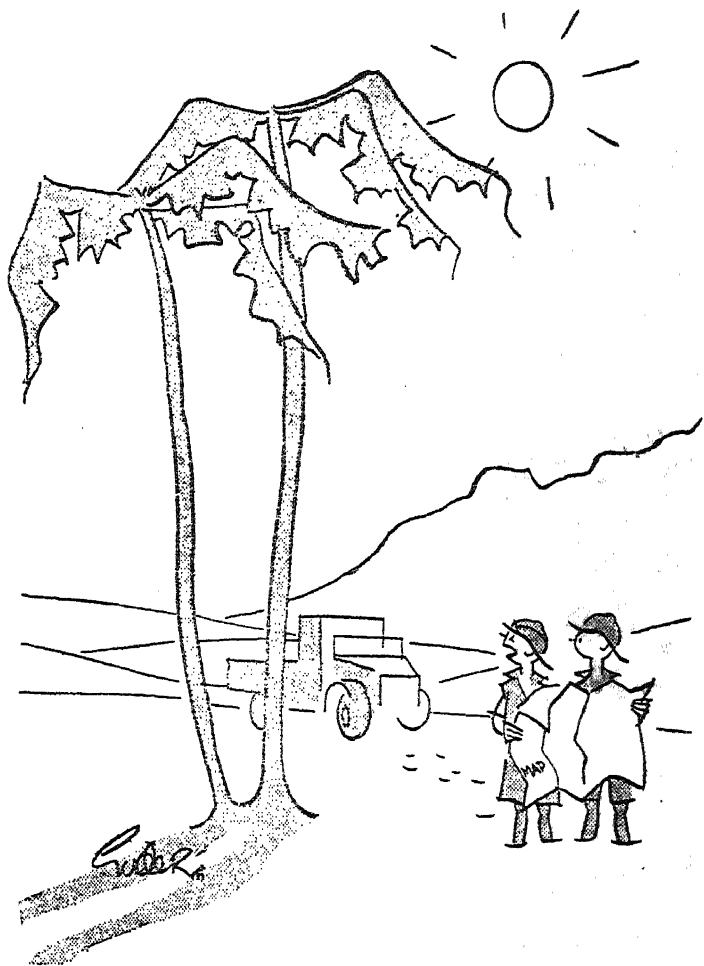


"So sorry—I thought this was the second fence."

Last year I made the mistake of planting my early peas in February, and the result was a poor crop. As the French girl said to the photographer, that's me all over.

Giving 'em Beans!

The most important types of beans include broad beans, short beans, garden beans, lounge beans, kidney beans, liver beans, old beans and has beans. Of these the broad and the kidney are the best known, and the most effective



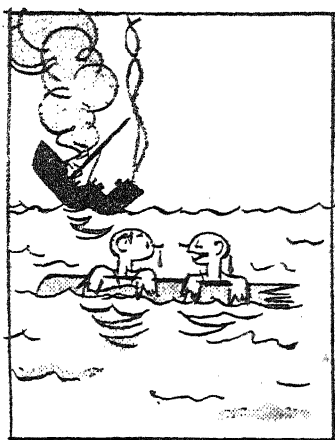
"No, it's a wood, Gibson—a forest is **THREE**."



"Isn't it marvellous these mornings to get inside and breathe the stale air?"

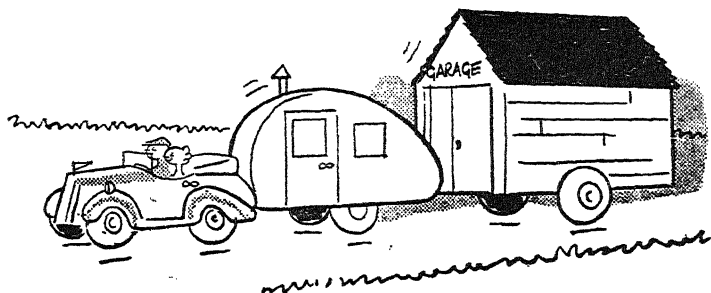


"Grand planting weather."



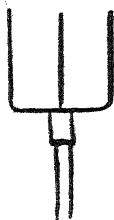
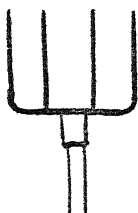
"Grand planting weather."

species of the former are the Broad Windsor, the Short Sharp, the Green Windsor, the Watta Windsor!, the Early Magazan, the Seville Long Pod, the Lancashire Hot Pod, the Dwarf Fan, the Aunty Fan and the Electric Fan. Of the latter, the best known varieties are the American Prolific, the Canadian Wonder, the Minnesota Marvel, the New York Herald-Tribune, the Miami Mail, the Daily



*Pitch fork.*

Express and the Wormwood Scrubs Weekly. Other worthy varieties include the Ne Plus Ultra, the Ad Astra, the Ad Up, the White Haricot, the Scarlet Runner, the Hot Harrier and the Painted Lady, so named because it has a white and scarlet blossom.

*Digging fork.**Common (or garden) fork.**Left fork.*

GARDEN GESTAPO.

The Greenfly.

Distinguishable from the bluebottle by its absence of steel helmet and stripes, this insect can be found in the garden clinging to lettuces, old bicycle tyres and empty tins. The most destructive of pests, a single greenfly has been known to eat a whole rockery, and many of the wretched creatures make their way into Kew Gardens without paying for admission. It is an established fact that they breed in the spring mostly without going through the marriage ceremony. Codger says that the best way to deal with the greenfly is to ignore it, but an ounce of stale skate dissolved in drainwater and applied to your marrows will teach it a lesson.

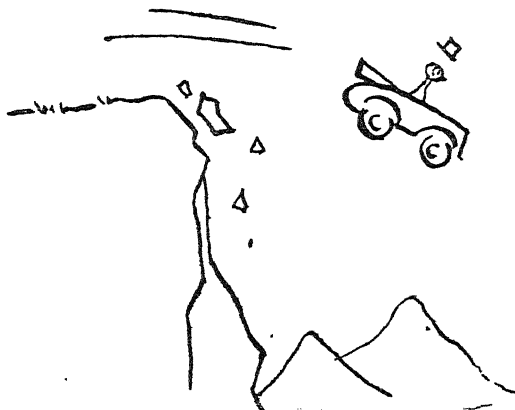
Beans need plenty of sun with a light, sandy soil, and for this reason I always plant mine in sandbags. The last lot Codger planted was in 1919, but he attributes their non-appearance to the lack of sun which, he avers, may have been shot down in an air raid. If you feel your beans are not getting enough sunlight, moonlight is a good substitute, and should the soil in your garden lack the necessary sand content, a plot can be obtained quite cheaply in the Sahara Desert.

The Wide Variety.

For broad beans, lay the ground in ridges three feet wide and fifteen inches high, ranging east and west. Gauge these directions by the weather vane without reference to the sun which, in wartime, is frequently compelled by anti-aircraft fire to



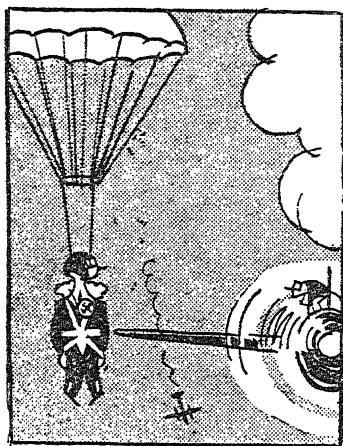
Right fork.



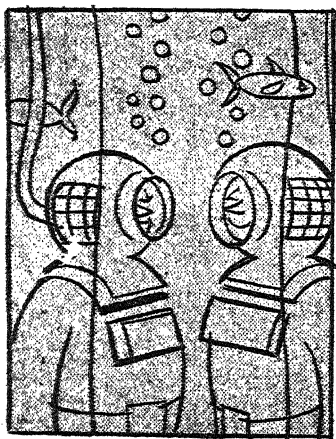
Wrong fork.

set in the north, and, at the rate things are going, will soon be prevented by shell splinters from rising at all until the afternoon.

On the south side of each ridge draw a drill halfway between top and bottom, in which you should sow the beans about three inches apart. They will in this way get plenty of sunshine and, at the same time, be kept well away from damp. If your broad beans are liable to colds, spray with Chatterbody's Choke Mixture or, better still, sow them an inch and a half off the ground.



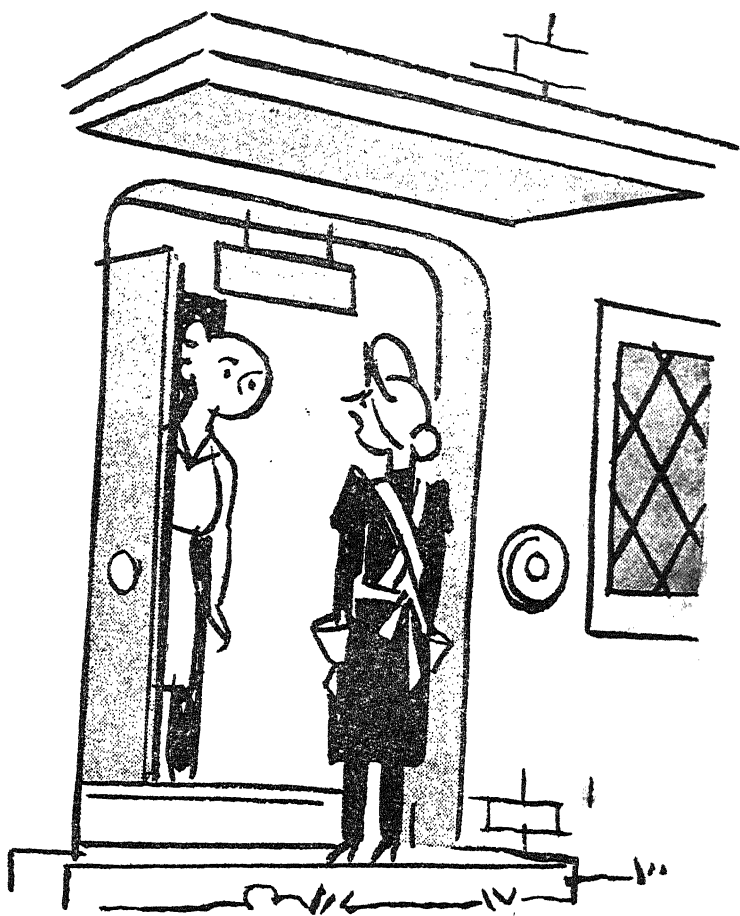
"Grand planting weather."



"Grand planting weather."

Kidneys.

Kidney beans should not be sown in holes; darning is the better method. Unfortunately I cannot ask Codger's opinion on this subject as he is half asleep in the long grass with a silk stocking protruding from his breast pocket. Plant runner beans in rows nine inches apart. Dibble or drill the seed to a depth of from $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches. The importance of dibbling or



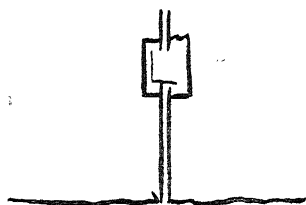
"Can you lend Mrs. Wilson your lawn-mower and will you please make less noise?"



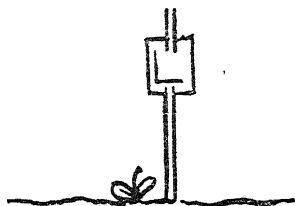
"I always leave it open, officer—I don't want burglars climbing up my rose vine."

drilling cannot be too heavily stressed. Never dribble.

Sticks should be placed in the rows up which the runners can be encouraged to climb. In many expensive gardens the sticks are replaced by shafts in order to ensure that the beans reach the top in comfort. These shafts, of course, are for the installation of lifts, and even moving staircases are being experimented upon.



January.



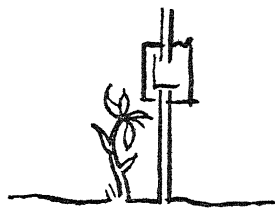
February.

Special Measures.

In the event of your beans becoming sluggish and failing to reach the top of the stick, spray the roots with a little castor oil or, better still, attach a rude postcard to the top.

Give your beans plenty of fresh water. A small enamel receptacle bearing the inscription "Beans" should be placed at the end of each row.

Onions require a strong, rich soil which can be easily moved with a spade. Very strong soils are better moved with petrol. Sow onions in February in four foot beds, care being taken to separate the male species from the female. As soon as the tops of the latter

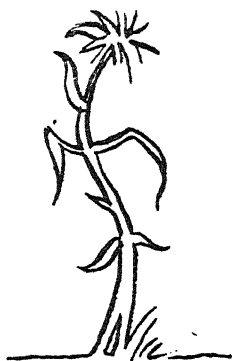


March.



"This year the haymaking was carried out by men from all sorts of trades."

appear in about April, they should be twisted into a ball and enclosed in a hairnet. To obtain the best pickled onions, spray with a mixture of gin and cigarette ash.



April.

Types.

Popular varieties include the White Lisbon, the Red Rag, the Green Man, the Blue with Cold, the Horse and Hearse, the Tripoli Italian Red, the Benghazi Nazi Nervous and the Tokyo Jap Revolting.

Leeks at first appearing backward can be brought up-to-date if taken aside for a heart-to-heart talk. Sow in April in half-inch drills twelve inches apart, thumbs in line with the

seams of the trousers.

To transplant, place rich plants in holes on some powdered manure. Press very rich plants into the soil until almost hidden, having first taken care to remove any suckers or lounge lizards. Never sow leeks in May and don't forget your gasmask.

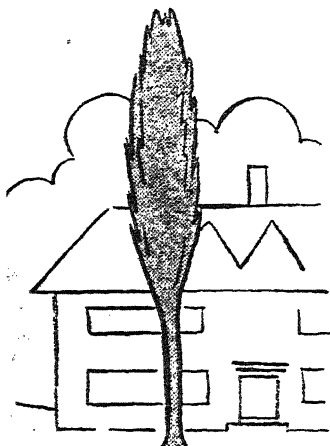
Spinach.

Spinach is not only a delicious vegetable but, if cut into four-inch sections, can be utilised as handles for buckets, hinges or as hot cross bun holders. It requires a light, rich soil and masses of moisture. If the ground and weather are dry water should be liberally supplied, and care should be taken to ensure that this is only of the very best quality. Test the quality of the

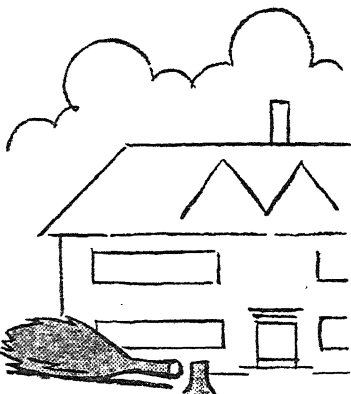


Mae.

water by allowing it to slip through the fingers, and inspect it carefully by holding a yard and half up to the light. Do not allow yourself to be misled by



Poplar.



Unpoplar.

GARDEN GESTAPO.

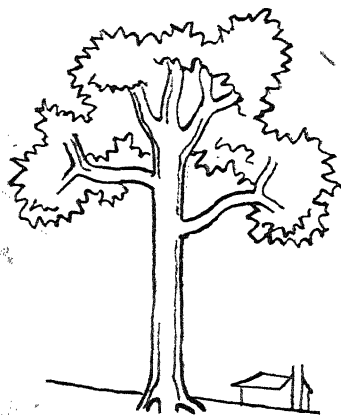
The Codlin Moth Maggot.

One of the most destructive of pests, this creature can be found round bowler hatbands, under antheaps and inside prayer books. Sometimes distinguished by a suitcase it carries bearing the initials C.M.M., it often disguises itself as the fluff off a towel. I am unable to get Codger's advice about this insect because the pubs are open, but the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Catmint tells me to dissolve an ounce of bromide in a basinful of sweat and dab on the soles of the boots. The noise of the explosions will eventually scare the things away.



purchasing spurious imitations. If water is unobtainable, gin with lime juice makes a simply wonderful substitute.

Plant spinach in rows three feet apart. Codger made the error last year of planting in rows two feet together and fell, crashing his head against an old umbrella frame. He was so dazed that we decided it would be both unnecessary and superfluous for him to visit the "Chest and Hairs." The barmaid tells me her takings were badly down for the week.



The beautiful elm.

Spinach leaves, if cut when a fair size, make a charming brassière. For an even more charming garment, cut when an unfair size.

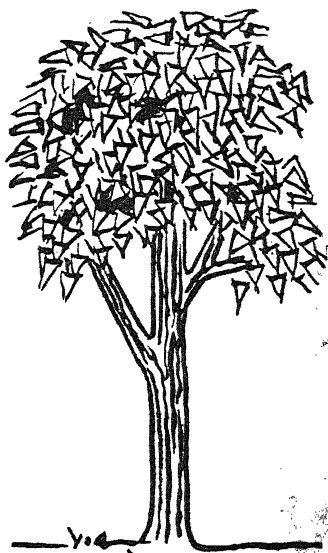
True or False?

There are two kinds of shallot; the true and the Jersey, or false variety. The false is generally placed overnight in a glass of water at the side of the bed and can be easily distinguished from the true variety which holds one hand in the air and carries a bible. Many people prefer shallots to onions, but in the last survey carried out over this county, eleven people said No, six said Yes and neither of the others was at home. Codger says the false shallot makes an excellent bath plug, but I myself find that, even if pressed firmly into the hole, the shallot does not stop the water running away before you enter the bath. Codger quite agrees with me, but still affirms that this vegetable makes an excellent bath plug. He says further

that if shallots are not obtainable, no bath plug at all makes an excellent substitute.

Unbeetable.

Beetroots are sown in April in rich soil fully exposed to the sun. Before sowing the seed in shallow drills, the ground should be trenched and stable manure placed at the bottom of each trench. If there are no stables in your district, it is advisable to follow horses about and to carry



The graceful catalpa.



The disgraceful hussy.

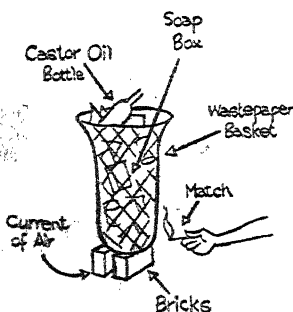
with you some kind of receptacle as well as a shovel. Never let the horse know you are following it as these beasts can, at times, be as obstinate as mules.

Codger once followed a horse for eleven days, but the beast observed his shovel and became quite adamant. Codger walked along behind the milkcart day in and day out.

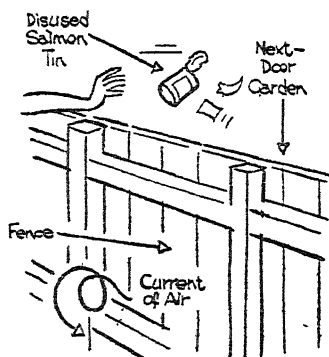
Whenever the cart stopped, so did Codger. Eventually he gave up when the roundsman threatened to have him arrested.

The Snoop.

On another occasion he followed a contraption labelled "Jones the Baker" for a fortnight. Not one speck of manure did he come across although his patience was inexhaustible. On the beginning of the fifteenth day, the van stopped at some traffic lights and, on staggering round to the front, Codger discovered that it was driven by electricity.



Easy method of eliminating surplus litter.

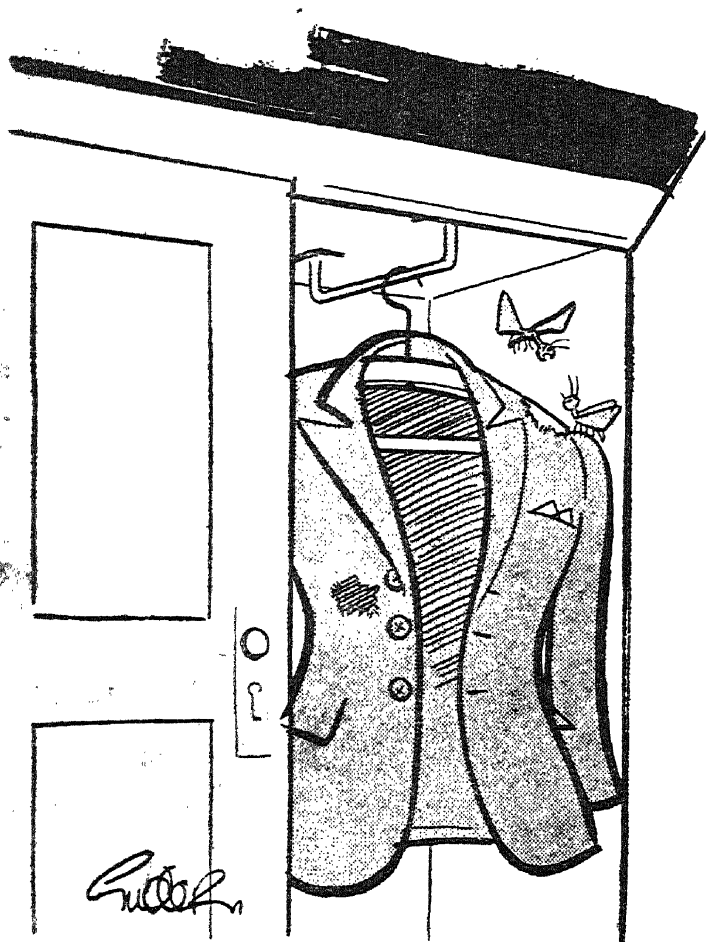


Free-and-easy method of eliminating surplus litter.

The third occasion was the most absurd. Codger followed a horse pulling an ice-cart from London to Epsom, a distance of nearly twenty miles, only to discover that the beast was his fancy for the Dêrby. Codger, of course, had to run in the Derby himself. He came in second, and, in addition, the horses got so excited that he was able to stop and collect basinsful of manure.



"Another five minutes and it should be just right."

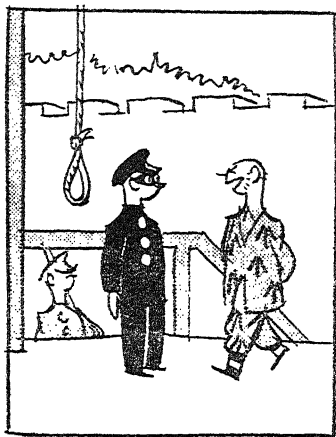


"Careful, dear! This one's got to last us until August."

The Seasons.

Beetroot seed should never be planted in rainy weather. September the Tenth, between one and two o'clock, is generally the dry season.

Thin the plants out to twelve inches apart, leaving the best coloured rather than the strongest looking. Aston Villa is about the shade most suitable; Arsenal and Norwich City should be uprooted. Plants shooting badly should stand down. Saxe blue should be hissed.



"Grand planting weather."



"Grand planting weather."

Beetroots are lifted in October and stored in dry sand. Sweet sand is seldom suitable.

Dell's crimson beet is unpopular by virtue of its disgusting temper.

Hot Stuff.

Mustard and cress requires a sunny spot for March sowings. Choose the situation carefully, making sure that

it is at least five hundred miles from Old Trafford. Good positions for mustard and cress are at Paris or Capetown. If you are unable to get to Paris, American magazines make a good substitute.

Sow mustard and cress thickly in wide, shallow drills every fortnight. Codger sows only once monthly whenever his alarm clock is out of order.



Mustard and cress grows well in wooden window boxes and dies hard in drawers.

Popular varieties are the Hotstuff, the Bitstiff, the Luscious, the Scrumptious and the Boisterous.

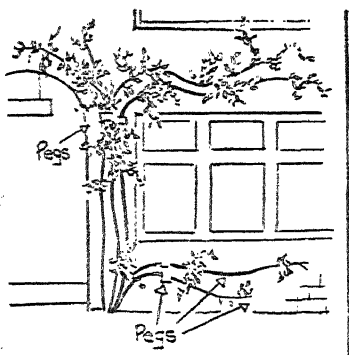
King Cabbage.

Unless cultivated under a strict system of rotation, the cabbage proves more exhausting to the soil than any other vegetable. Sow seeds thickly in fine, rich ground in drills one inch deep, and cover with more rich soil. If you find

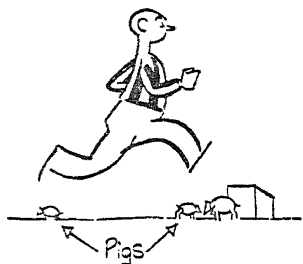


"The Film Gazette? Well, in view of the shortage of shipping space, I would like it announced that I've decided to grow my own eyelashes."

yourself short of soil, this can be obtained from the people next door in exchange for their lawn-mower. If the surface is wet, pat it firmly with a piece of flat board. The cabbage finds this most reassuring. Keep the surface moist and, when the seed is up, dust with lime, salt or soot to promote vigorous growth. A sprinkling of Bitterton's Bone Builder will assist in creating real stamina.



Simple method of training ramblers.



Simple method of training.

The fact that the cabbage makes a delicious meal can be borne out by the size of the giant caterpillars which abound in every garden. Codger never goes into our garden without a revolver and maintains that an insect fifteen feet long has made its home in one of our savoys. Codger states in addition that our celery is being attacked by purple elephants with seven legs, but this observation should be taken with a pinch of lime, salt or soot.

When cabbage leaves are about four inches long, Codger fillets them. They seldom reach a length of four inches, however, but a three-and-a-half inch makes a splendid silencer on a doorknocker.

Important.

Never omit to supply cabbages with plenty of moisture. If the off licences are closed, water makes a good substitute.

Popular varieties include early Battersea, punctual Power Station, early Dwarf, early York, well-in-time Turpin, Clucas first early, Durham early, Durham late, Durham light infantry, Enfield market, savoy, strand palace and bed-and-bath.

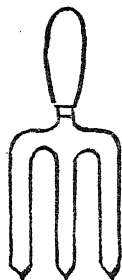
Durham very late should be stunned.

Finer Points.

The cauliflower is popular by virtue of its delicate white head. Those with delicate black heads should be squeezed out. This vegetable requires an open position. Plant in rows in the middle of Russia or, better still, in a bombed area. In wet weather cover the



"Look what happens to these pips every time it rains."



Border fork.



Trowel.



Billhook.

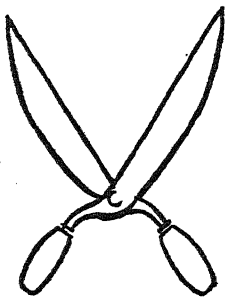


Billhook.

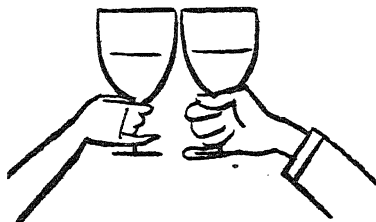
seedling with a layer of fine soil or a bathing costume. To prevent halitosis, do not shuffle.

Seedlings sprouting too early should be padlocked.

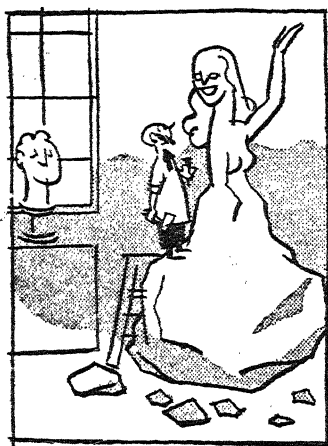
The broccoli differs only slightly from the cauliflower and delights in a rich loam. Codger says our loam is so poor that it forges cheques. He actually brought it back with him after his last holiday that extended over a period of ten years.



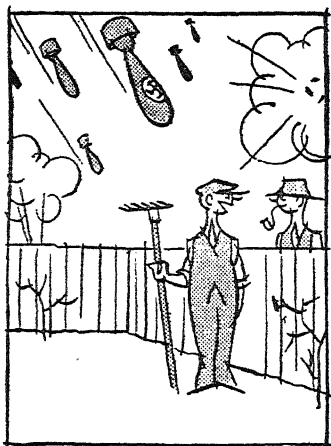
Shears.



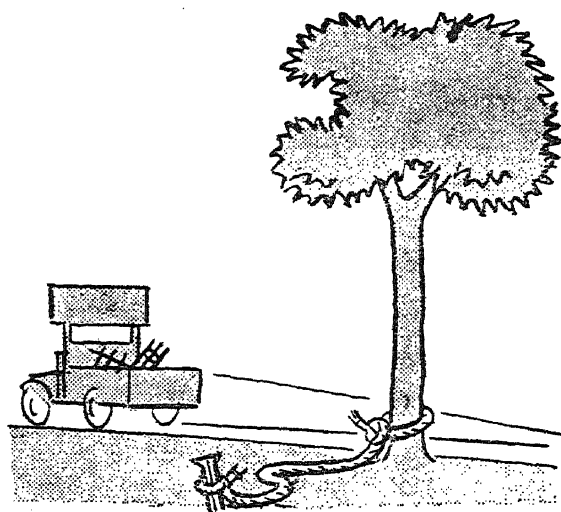
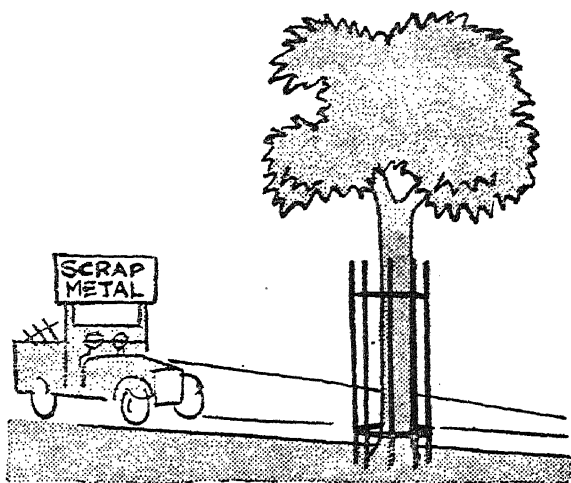
Cheers.

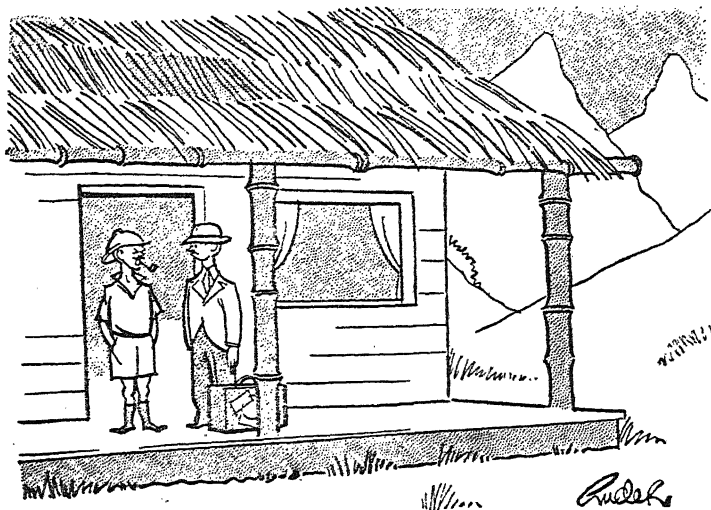


"Grand planting weather."



"Grand planting weather."





"Of course, our difficulty is that we can't get enough rhubarb to go with the sugar."

The Importance of Terrain.

If grown in really rich loam, broccoli is so delighted that it strips off its leaves and dances naked.

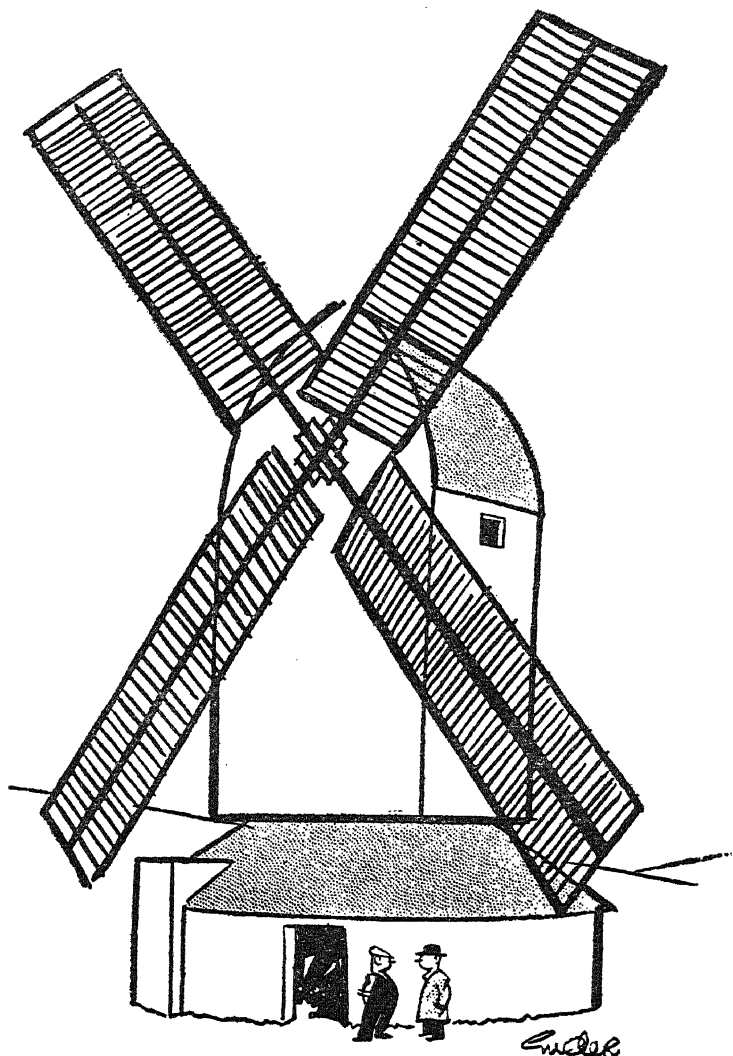
If the white heads of your broccoli are very delicate, spray with Brylcreem and cover with a hat.

GARDEN GESTAPO.

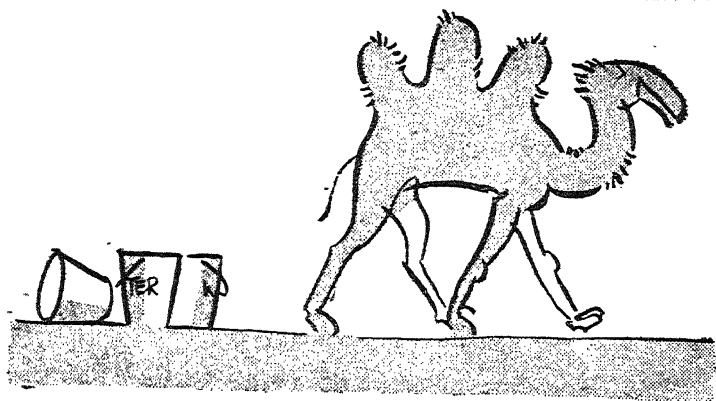
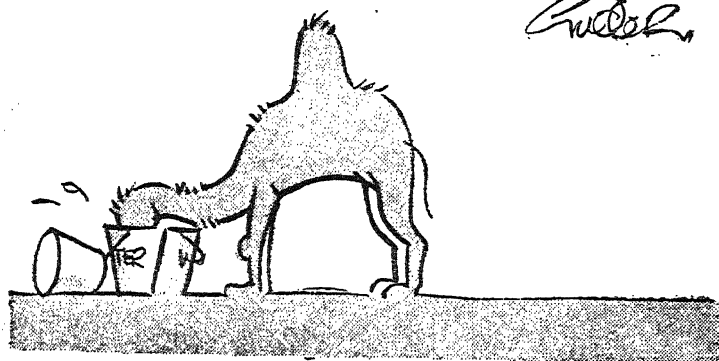
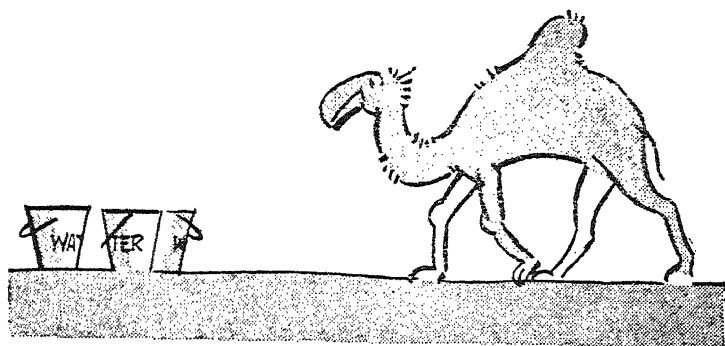
The Woolly Aphis.

So called because of its left-handed cricket stance, this pest attacks leaves, roots and stems of plants without the slightest provocation. Can be distinguished by the showers of leaflets it emits before destroying helpless female radishes. Codger says that the best protection against this insect is an air-raid shelter, but a slice of national wheatmeal bread or a slap in the stomach with a smouldering sock will serve it right.

UP THE GARDEN PATH



'No, sir, we don't use the wind any longer—Nowadays we turn them round by electricity.'



Brussels sprouts require a stiff loam. Those plants which do not appear by June are probably homesick and should be handled by an interpreter.



*Potato (suitably sprouted
for planting).*

Potato (oversprouted)

Spud (overconfident).

Facts for Figures.

Borecole, kale and curlies are cultivated for their leaves and can be obtained in a multitude of designs from any tailor. Gnatty suitings of curlies lined with turnips' torsos are on sale at Twatt and Stupid, Limited, Soft-row, for the absurd price of eight hundred guineas.

Muds for Spuds.

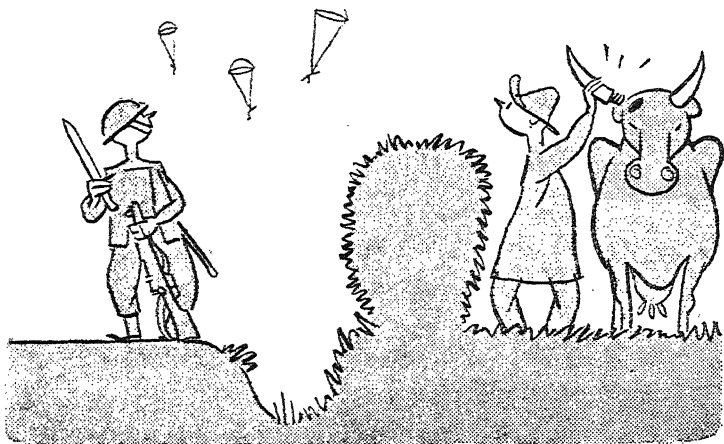
Potatoes require a light, sandy soil manured with cow dung or charred vegetable refuse. Dirty shaving water or wet newspaper should not be used.

There are two distinct types of potato, the early and the late.

The early are always underdone and swim in steam and stale water, whereas the late variety are soggy, full of eyes, and smell like a Nazi non-aggression pact. Very late types seldom arrive at all.

Bonk!

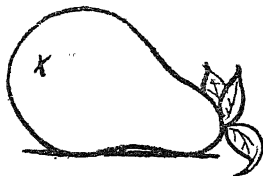
Tuber potatoes are dropped into holes eight feet deep. If you do not hear the potatoes strike the base of the hole ten seconds after dropping, then it is probable that you are dropping tomatoes in error. Tubers infected by any kind of maggot are never effective.



GARDEN GESTAPO.

The Booboo.

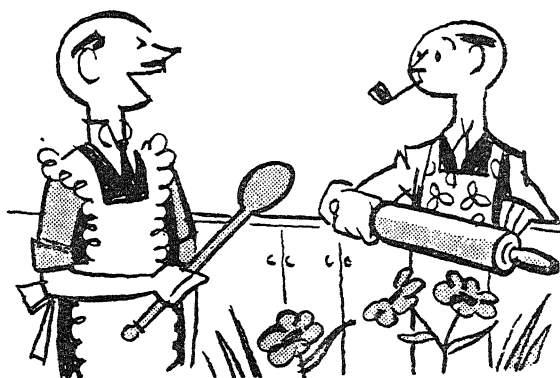
This horrible arrangement derives its name from its habit of banging something against nothing. It has no head or body, 282 legs and cannot be found on cabbages, cauliflowers or carrots. On Sundays it has been known to undermine a whole pulpit, and many a country parson has disappeared like a cinema organ in the middle of his sermon as a result of the booboo's activities. It will remove nails from nasturtiums and bolts from blue. Zinc ointment mixed with washing-up water is sometimes effective, but Codger says the only way to be rid of the pests is to change houses.



Jargonelle pear (edible).

Cotton reels with a hole through the centre are probably being attacked by the Codlin Moth Maggot which steals gravy.

As soon as potato shoots are three to four inches above the surface, the soil should be stirred with a hoe and thoroughly drained. By co-operation with the sanitary



"Ha, Ha! Still using a rolling pin for pastry? Why, before my wife joined up she bought me an electric iron."

officials, it is possible to arrange for a complete sewage system to carry water out to sea. If the sea is too far away, it is customary for drains to lead to the nearest open air swimming pool.

Early Types.

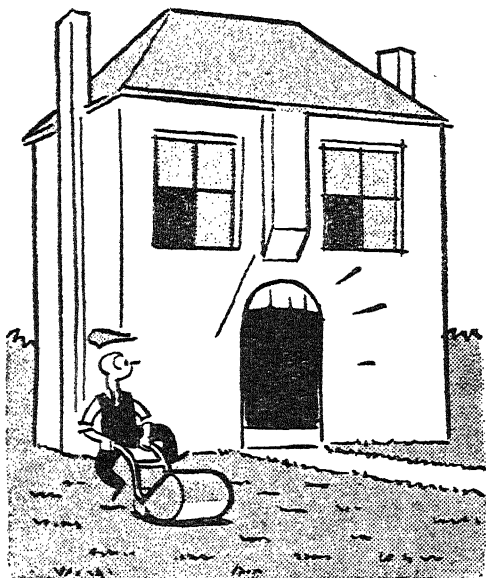
Early tuber potatoes should be sown wrapped in cotton wool or, better still, in their jackets. For heavy soils, dig a trench eight inches deep and drop the tubers into this fifteen inches apart.



Owing to the nature of the soil,

Catillac pear (cookable)

Codger was unable to dig a trench in our garden this year. In addition, a mechanical drill and a stick of dynamite were of no avail, so that he was compelled to improvise for a trench by sowing our tubers in an underground station. There the atmosphere became so fierce during the summer, however, that the plants turned round and grew downwards. They have never been located since.



"Hey! Fairly short at the back and sides . . .!"

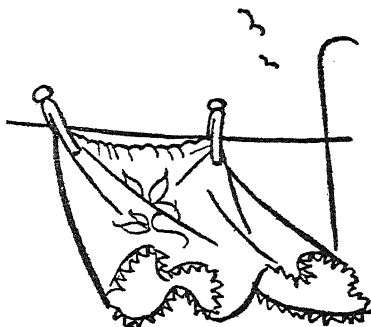
Non-stop Variety.

The Ashleaved Kidney is a popular early potato which mashes well, but the Floating Kidney goes farther. Late varieties include Palladium, May Queen, Sharpe's Express, L.N.E.R. All Stations, Ally, Arran Comrade, Chertsey Chum, Majestic, Gigantic and Carbollic.

The territory around vegetable marrows should be liberally supplied with Cornish fish manure. In pursuit of this, Codger tells me that he has become quite adept at swimming with a pail and shovel. He can stay under water two, three and even four days and still come up as perky as usual.

Relaxation.

For this reason, he makes a journey every year to Cornwall and incorporates in it his annual holiday. He says that the first twelve weeks in August are the best, excluding the journey which is often tiresome. There is an express from Bodkin, however, that leaves in September and reaches London the following spring.



Crêpe-de-Chine pair (unshrinkable).

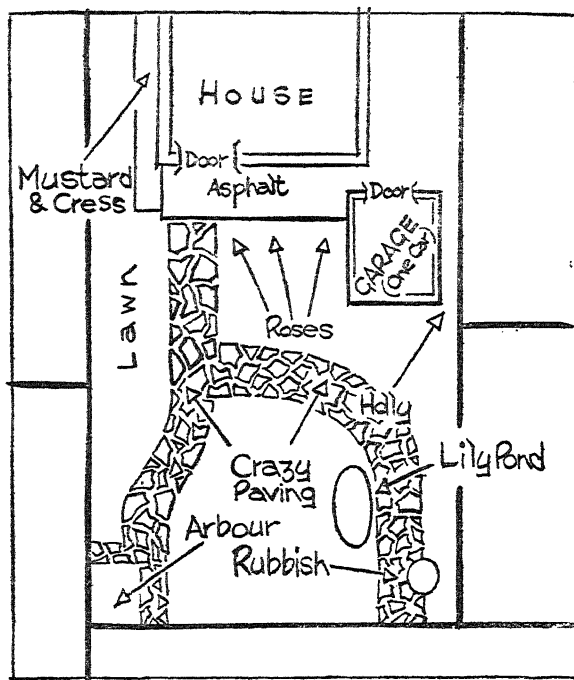
GARDEN GESTAPO.

The Leatherjacket.

Notorious for its vicious attacks upon cows, cruets, crabpots, cricket pitches and cretonnes. It is essential not to confuse the leatherjacket with the Woolly Aphis or with the Woolly Pullover. It can be found underneath baths and round radiators, and is recognised by the tightness under its arms and by its pockets which are kept closed with stamp paper. Codger says that the only effective way of dealing with this beastly creature is to spray your cucumbers with a mixture carrying the same smell as a Panzer division. I may pay Codger this week.

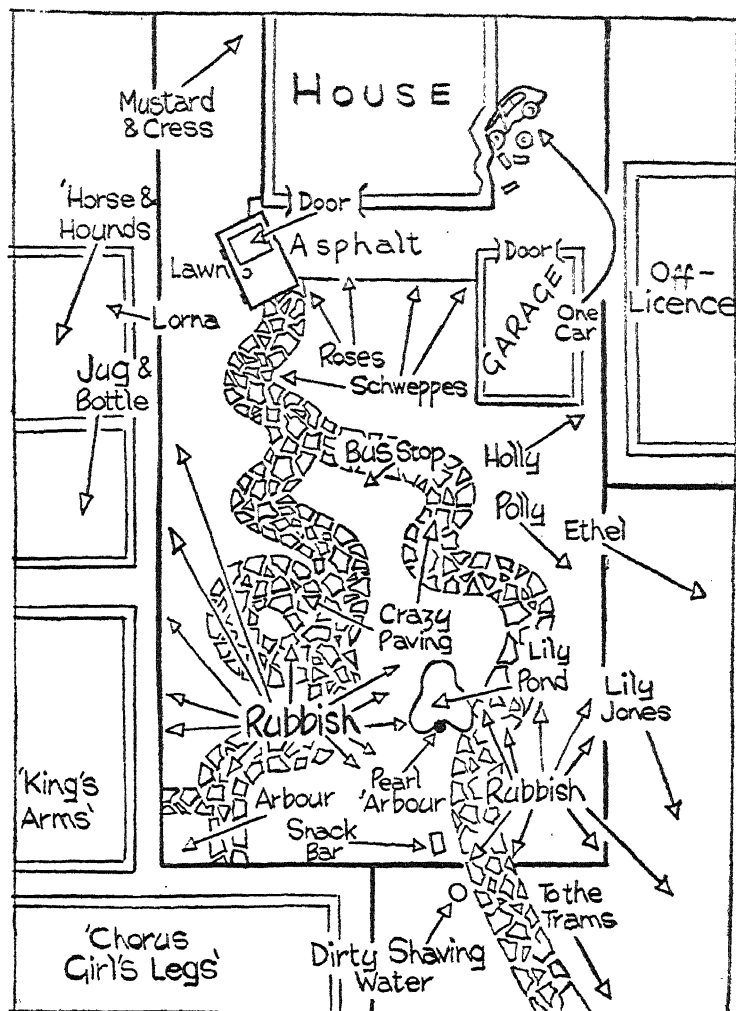
We assume in this case that the wind is in the right direction.

Sow marrow seeds in pots of rich soil and place in a warm position. Pot off young shoots and harden in a window for planting out at the end of March.

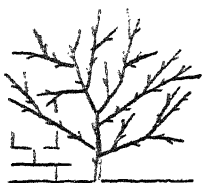
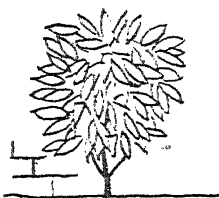
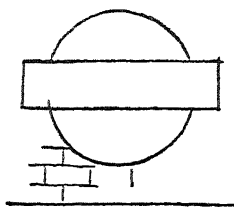


A typical garden.

Trailing marrows can be planted in a rubbish heap. If your garden lacks such, a wastepaper basket or a spittoon makes an awkward substitute. With Codger about, I have found it necessary to equip our garden with a reinforced steel spittoon. Codger spits so vehemently that he



The Author's garden at Mutch Hammering.

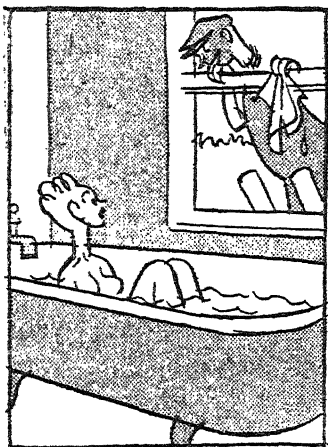
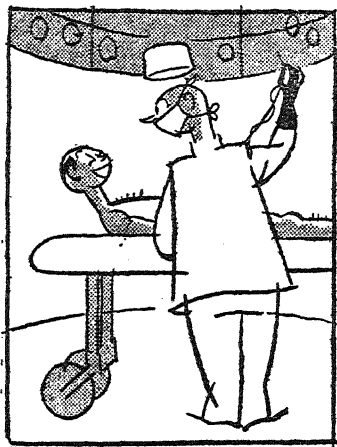
*Gooseberry bush.**Laurel bush.**Shepherd's Bush.*

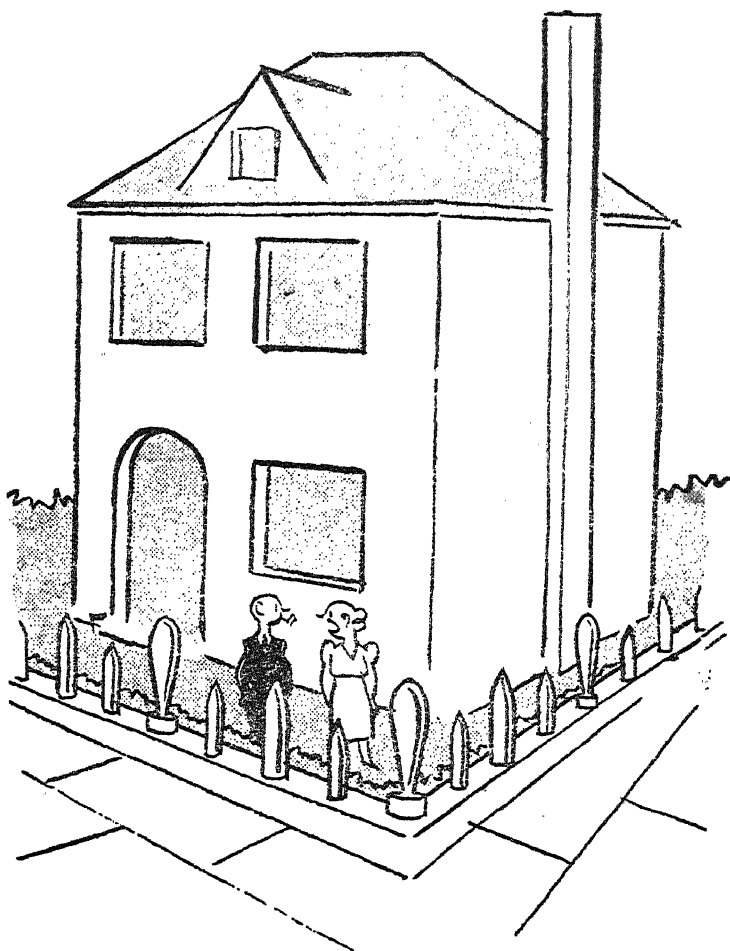
has been compelled by the police to take out a firearms licence, and a dispatch from Wellington says that Codger, unarmed, turned the French left flank at Quatre Bras.

Precaution.

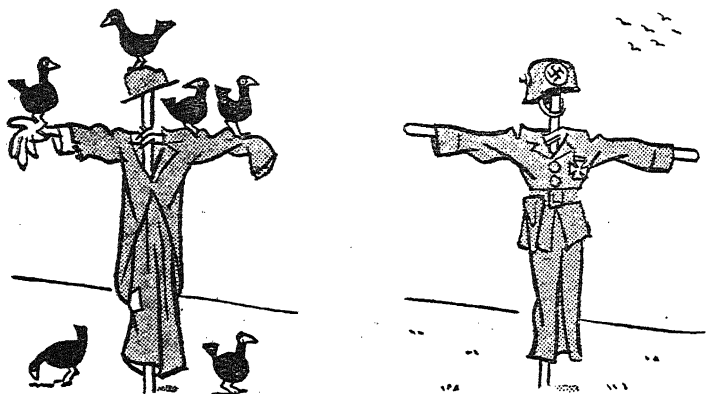
Trailing marrows should be marked with a red lamp and labelled On Tow.

Codger assures me that marrows require a lot of space and, for this reason, I rented the houses on both sides of

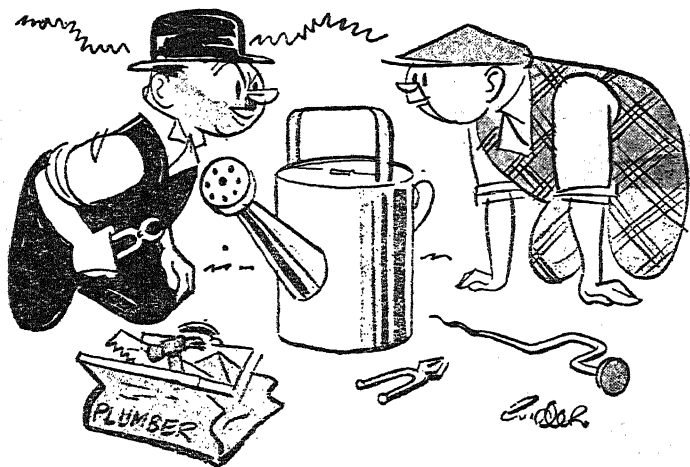
*"Grand planting weather."**"Grand planting weather."*



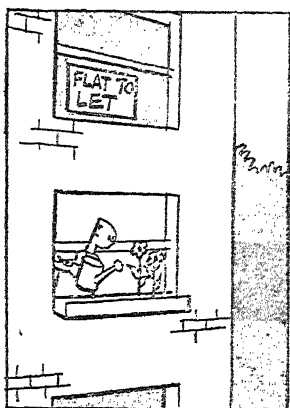
“And what’s more,” I said, “I don’t leave this factory until my iron railings are returned to me . . . !”



my own the year before last. I am not aware of what treatment he administered, but one of Codger's marrows grew to a tremendous size and soon I had become obliged to rent the whole road. An additional expense arose when

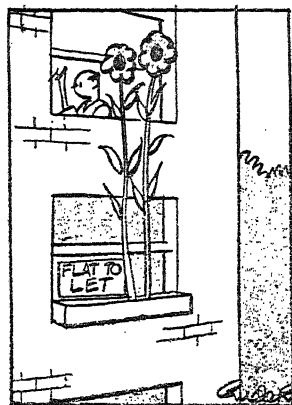


"Then, if no water comes through this time we'll look inside and see if it's empty."



and Codger ate it for lunch. He said that the middle portion tasted sooty as a result of spreading across Kennington.

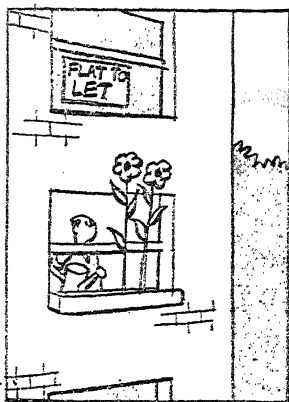
Popular varieties of marrow include the Clucas Roller, the Cigarette Roller, the Steam Roller and the Vacuum Cleaner.



a horse took a bite out of the vegetable and died, but the climax arrived when I received a bill for eleven hundred pounds from the railway officials to cover the cost of cutting a tunnel through the marrow.

Poor Flavour.

Eventually we shot the thing



Unpopular varieties are the Sippy, the Bad and the Smelly.

The Cucumber.

Cucumbers can be grown in a temperature of between seventy and seventy-five degrees. Codger says that by developing a temperature of a

hundred and fifty degrees cucumbers can be grown ready cooked in a hotbed. If a hotbed is not available, a gas stove or a Turkish bath makes a good substitute.

Besides being an excellent and nourishing food, the cucumber makes an ideal solid bottle; hollowed out, it is used extensively in Latvia as a paraffin funnel.

For instructions on how to rid cucumbers of gallstones, read *Gurgle's Gardening Guide* (Sick & Tired, 10d.).

Many people complain about the flavour of their cucumbers. If you find your cucumbers are constantly watery and bitter, Codger says it is advisable to change green-grocers.

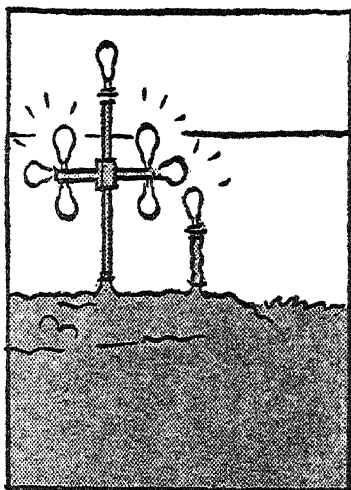
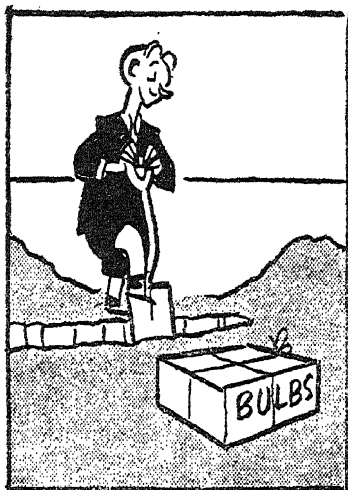
Lady Lettuce.

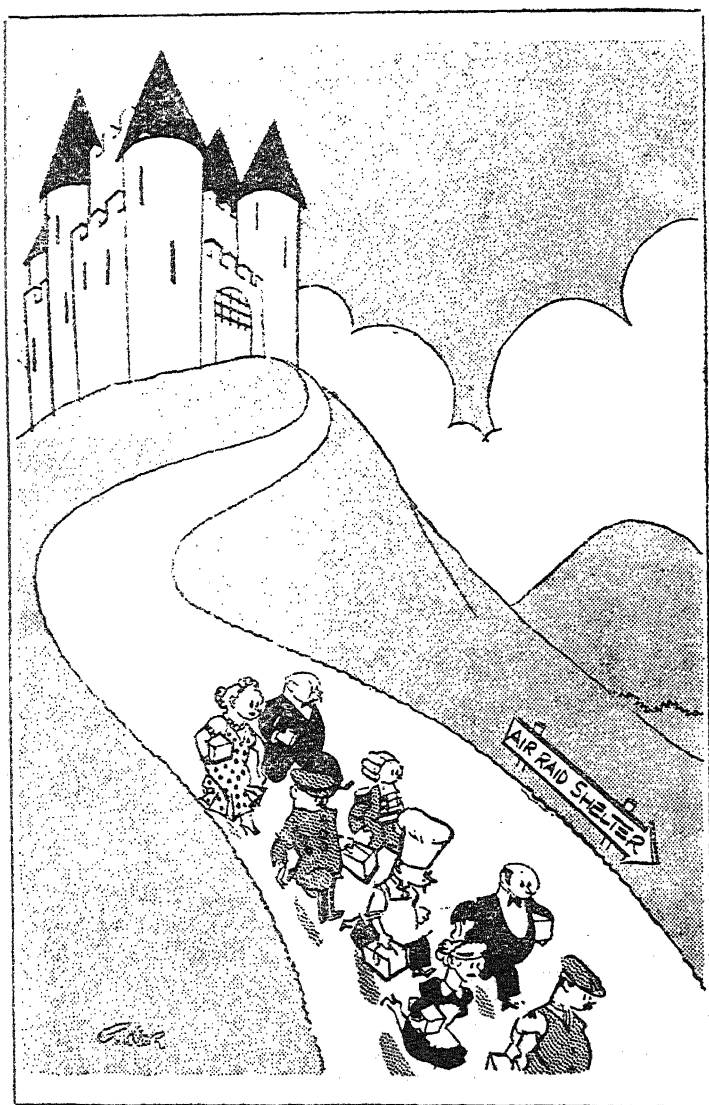
There are two kinds of lettuce, Cabbage and Cos. The Cabbage lettuce looks and tastes like cabbage, but is often beetroot in disguise. The Cos, on the other hand, if grown a yard and a half off the ground, looks like nothing on earth. It derives its name from the Greek "Cos," meaning "Cos."

GARDEN GESTAPO.

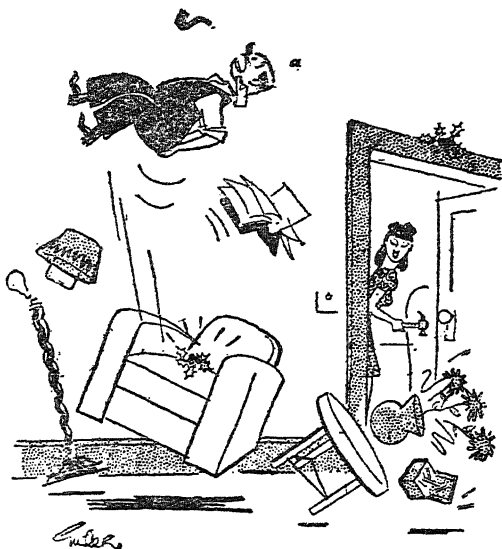
The Serge Trouser.

Gardeners detecting the presence of this insect are advised to take immediate action. It originated in America and is recognised by its shiny knees and zip-fastener. Pool tobacco spread over the soil in a proportion of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (25s. 6d. at any ironmonger's) to the square yard should render these creatures faint, and a smart tap with a battering ram usually has the effect of keeping them quiet. Another popular method of dealing with the Serge Trouser is jiu-jitsu. If this pest is really getting a grip in your garden, ring the police. A body of men most vital to the war effort, it is only reasonable to give them an opportunity to retire safely from the vicinity.





Popular varieties include the Improved Trocadero and the Lyons Corner House Newly Decorated In All Sorts Of Jolly Colours With Dancing Girls.



"Daddy, did I leave a little sprig of holly in there?"

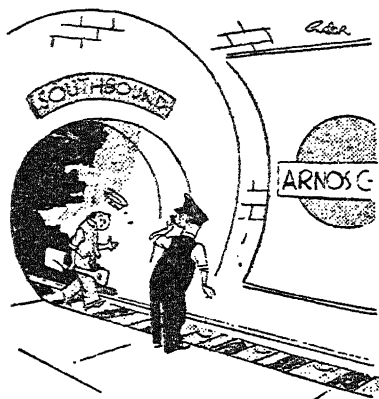
Sow the seed about the centre of October by scattering, and cover with a layer of soil. As the plants rise, thin them out to about nine inches apart. A useful instrument for this operation can be obtained from:

Dan Druff & Co., Ltd.,
22z Stomach-street,
London, N.S.
Telephone: Pop, toot, z-z-z.

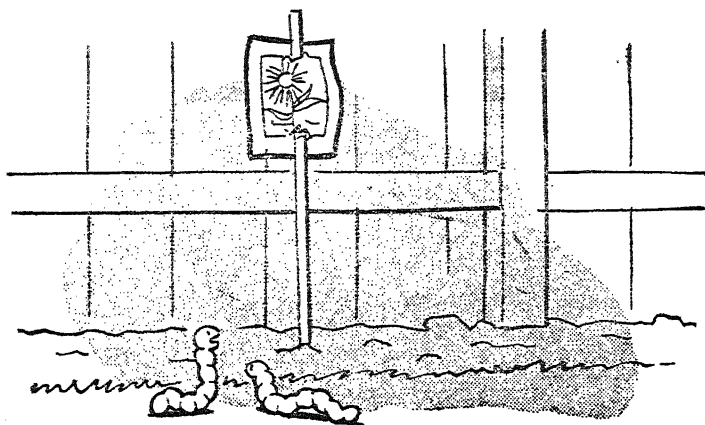
Care Required.

Early in March plant your lettuces out into their permanent position. Care should be taken about this point

as mistakes can easily be made. One of the most popular positions for lettuce is on the left-hand side going from. Many people, however, prefer the right-hand side coming

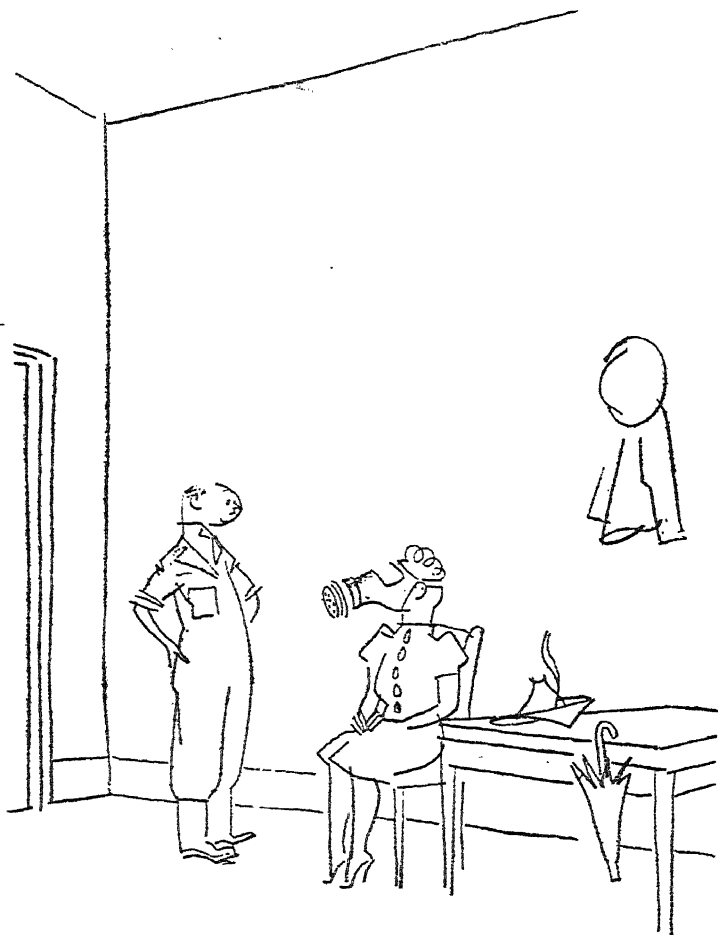


"I got carried away by this dig for victory stunt."



"Well, in my opinion, this menu idea's just pure swank."



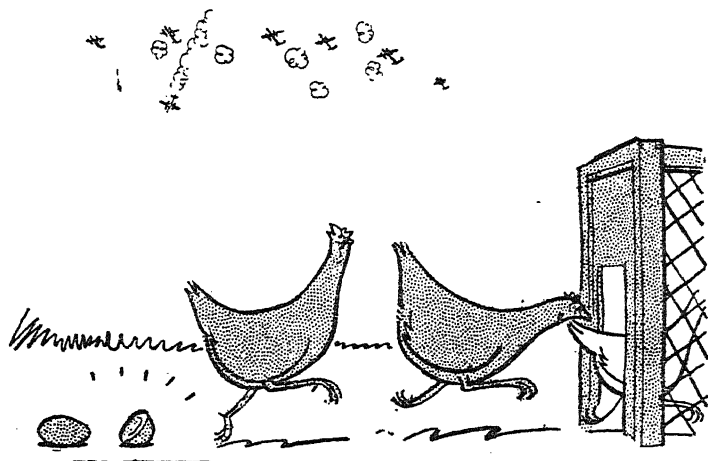


Enders

"And are you positive it will still strain vegetables?"

off, the reason being that lettuce thus situated will not nearly so much.

With the country in a state of total war, the importance of parsnips cannot possibly.



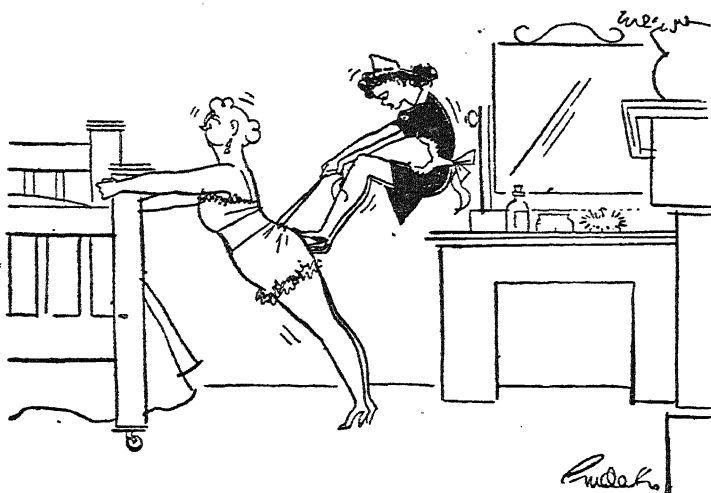
"Isn't it awful the way you have to keep leaving off in the middle of what you're doing?"

Parsnips, if grown in deep, rich soil, make excellent umbrella handles or army soap, and folded in half they are as effective as the average cigarette lighter. Do not manure the same season as this vegetable is grown. Thus, if your parsnips are timed to arrive about Christmas, start extensive manuring whilst the boat race is on. If, however, you can finish the job 48 hours after the winners reach Mortlake, then there is no actual necessity to continue until Oxford's arrival.

Carrots.

Stump-rooted carrots are best for heavy soils. Light soils can be rendered suitable, however, by a system of

weighting down either with lead piping or with Aldershot pastry.



"Aren't you taking the Prime Minister a little too literally, Madam, about tightening up our belts?"

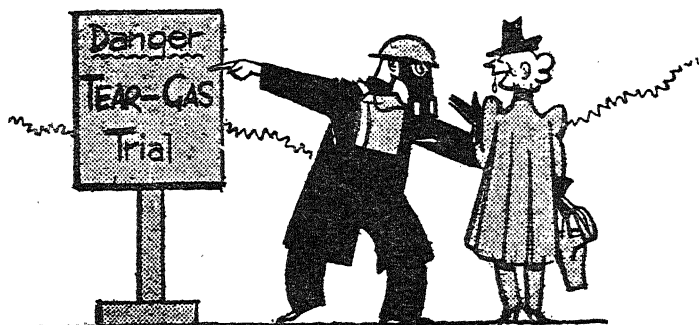
GARDEN GESTAPO.

The Parachutist.

This pestiferous abomination wears a false nose and can be identified by its resemblance to a cross between a tourist and a technician. If you observe large numbers of these insects dropping in the direction of your garden, it is advisable to transplant celery into the sitting-room and to spray the saddle of your bicycle with acid. Next call out the Home Guard or, if the public houses are already closed, ask the manager to flash an announcement on to the screen of the local cinema. Should Parachutists be falling in really large numbers, forget your gasmask or jump down a lift shaft. This will eliminate any obligation on your part to sign the poison book at the chemist's.



"No wonder the vegetables were soggy at dinner, Henry—the man says my respirator's not working properly . . ."

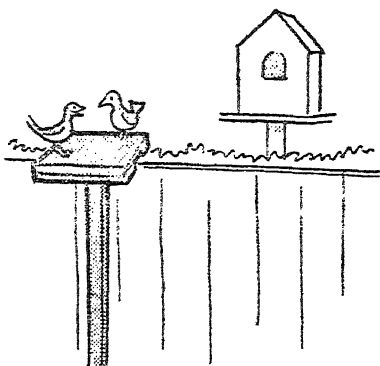


"Please don't stop me—it reminds me of onions."

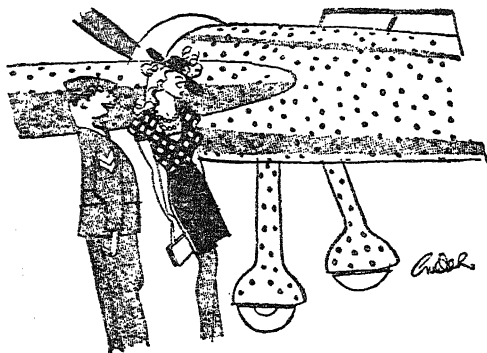
Rhubarb should be planted in February or thereabouts. Codger actually seldom plants his until early March, as he generally has a hangover and is confined to bed during February. However, one can hardly expect one's head gardener, even in the event of world war, completely to forgo his Christmas festivities.

Rhubarb is usually forced in a warm, dark place, rude though it may sound.

An interesting point is raised by a Professor Brathaven in statistics compiled at the University for the Study of Converting Stuffing into Lime Sulphur when he asserts that more rhubarb was seduced during 1937 than in any preceding year of the twentieth century.



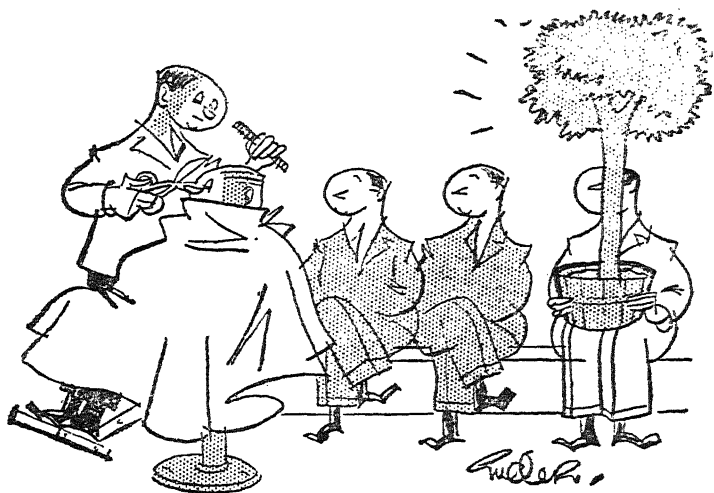
"Cooler in summer, mind you."



"Bullet holes? No, this one was made from aluminium colanders, Lady Slickshot!"

Tomatoes are apparently most at home in a green house, but I am not aware as to whether they prefer the dining-room, library or bedroom. One sows tomatoes in shallow beds, according to Codger, although he doesn't stipulate as to the number of blankets and sheets.

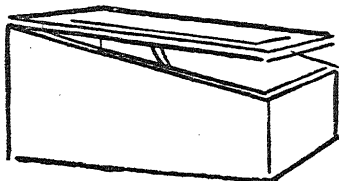
Having dealt fully with the question of vegetables, we now turn the gardener's attention to fruit which, in time of war, constitutes one of our main sources of food.



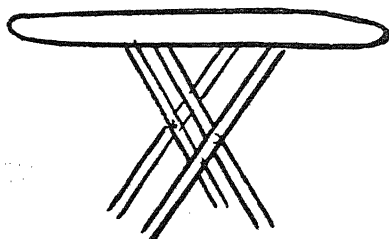
Great Stuff!

Fruit is really ever so good for you and everyone should grow some. Fruit, from the humble blackberry up to the luscious peach and juicy pear, is a medium so necessary in the building of our giant services as to be indispensable. Everybody loves it. My own favourite is the strawberry, mixed up in great dollops of Devonshire clotted. Codger gets raspberries, enormous, full-blown fellows, from the boys at Mutch Hammering.

Having decided the exact location of your fruit garden, proceed to clear the ground of various odds and ends such as sewing-machine shuttles, slippers, slop basins, slate, and the like. This task completed, all you have to do is to plant like mad. The core of an apple dropped into a hole eight inches deep may turn into one of the best speculations you ever made. Or an ordinary plum stone may develop into a tree capable of providing food for a whole English winter. Feel well rewarded, however, if the tree merely provides fruit for a period of three or four years.



Cold frame.



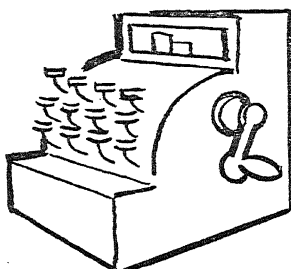
Ironing board.

Beware of Imitations.

Care should be taken to ensure that only the best apple cores are planted, as Codger has discovered to his disadvantage. One set of apples he purchased from

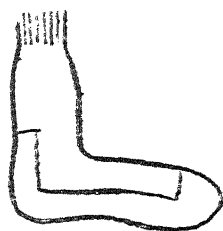
a Mutch Hammering greengrocer and planted in my estate grew up in the form of a horse-chestnut tree, whilst a second and very tough variety came through the surface of the soil as tiny telegraph poles.

Apricots are best in a well-drained loam containing a proportion of lime, and will not



Cash register.

thrive in a damp place. Last year I had hoped that the apricots Codger planted would prove a real success, but I have since been able to attribute their non-appearance to the fact that he omitted to take the things out of their tins. He is the same with his appearance. He shaves with unfailing regularity once a week, but the stupid fellow seldom remembers to remove the wrapping from the blade.



Sock.

The Cherry.

Cherries are best grown in grass where their roots will remain undisturbed for some years. Choose a deserted

GARDEN GESTAPO.

The Apple Sawfly.

One of the most voracious of pests, the Apple Sawfly has been known to eat the dickey off a penguin. It has no legs and, for this reason, can be seen walking up the garden about an eighth of an inch off the ground. In addition, it talks in shorthand and has seven stomachs. To combat this insect, spray apple trees with a mixture of nicotine and soft soap. This involves signing the poison book at the chemist's. Codger tells me that chemists will only supply regular customers with this most deadly of poisons. The nicotine, of course, can be obtained from any tobacconist. If this mixture has no effect on the Apple Sawfly, the best course to take is that of using a different kind of spray. Codger suggests one of machine-gun bullets. Upon receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope, I shall be pleased to send readers instructions about how to avoid the Apple Sawfly, heat exhaustion and income tax with hints about which wall to stick your apple trees up against.

spot like Tibet or, better still, the cricket ground at Old Trafford. Codger says that cherries can be increased by seed and by grafting. Popular types include Bigarreau, Black Tartarian, Early Rivers, Archbishop, Archway and Flanagan and Allen; a smaller popular variety is the Harry Roy.

A lot of manure is necessary to render gooseberry bushes effective, and in recent years the gooseberry has entirely

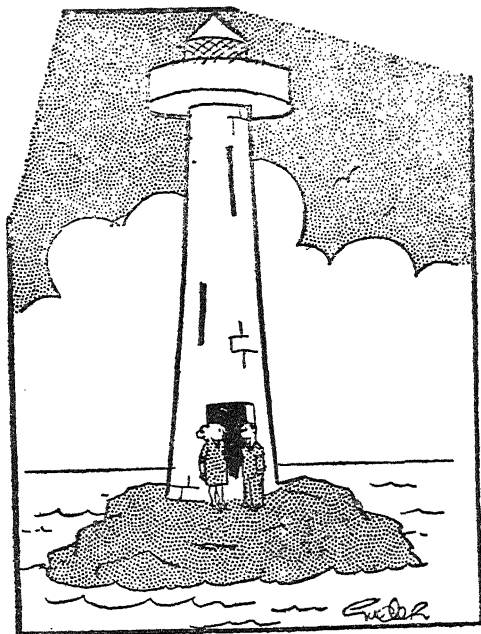


"No. 55? We've called about a flaming onion!"

superseded the chaperone, or mother's assurance. Popular types are the Golden Gem, the Golden Drop, the Scotch and Splash, and the Leveller. Unpopular varieties of gooseberry include the Lodger, the Dame's Aunt and the Kid Brother.

Propagation of the pear is carried out by budding or grafting on to the pear stocks, and new types arrive from Seed, Codger tells me. He prefers the graft method himself, but he does not make it clear how one can come into contact

with this person, Seed, from which new types are obtainable. With this object in view, I asked the Mutch Hammering exchange to put me through to all numbers in the district belonging to people of the name Seed. The operator assured me she would do this directly she had caught up a run in her stocking, but a wait of nearly an hour and a



"Couldn't we move to a place with a bigger garden, dear—like Gibraltar?"

quarter told me that this particular run must have been travelling at breakneck speed and that she was equipped with legs some two or three miles long.

The first Seed turned out to be a knicker designer, however, the second attempted to interest me in a race at Hurst Park, the third instructed me to undertake a

running jump at myself and hung up, and the fourth smelt of gin-and-vermouth.

Undaunted.

Notwithstanding these discouraging developments, I am able to reveal that pear trees can be of standard, half-standard, pyramid or bush shape, that the first two are used extensively for street lighting in Suffolk and that the last-named makes a good hatstand. Pyramids have replaced the shirt sleeve as a medium for wiping the nose.

The Best Choice.

Popular dessert pears (or pairs) include Socks, Skates, Shinguards, Shirts, Shorts, Kippers and Cami-knicks. Useful kitchen varieties are the Rubber Glove, the Bodybelt and Tradesman's Delight.

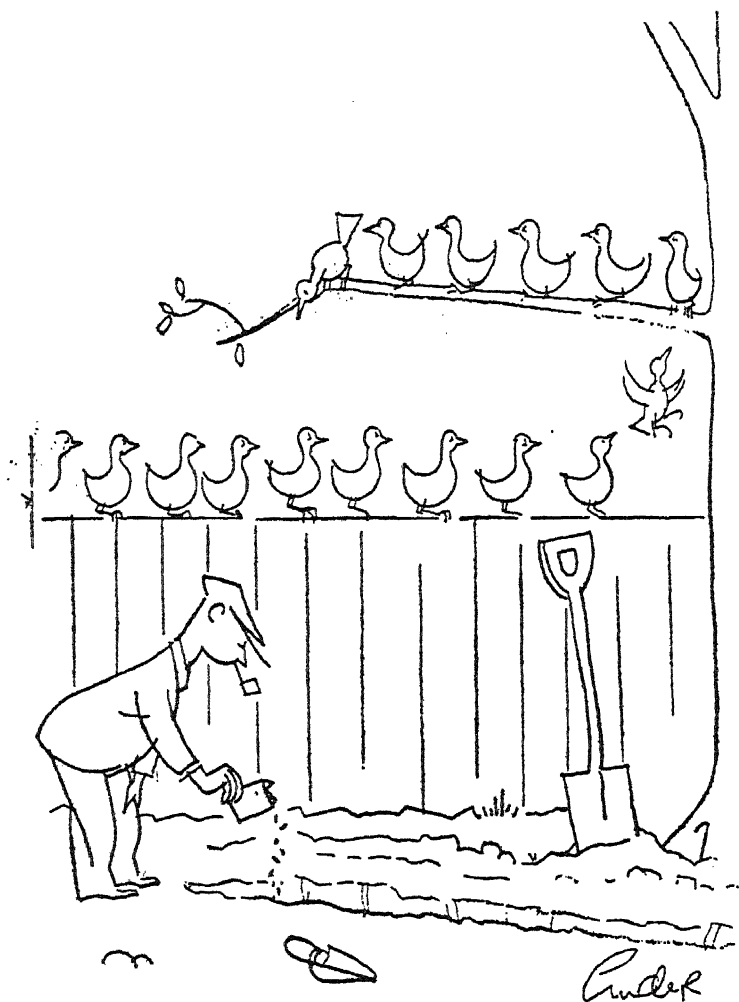
Plums hate pruning and insist on a good loam. Prune a plum tree, and you make yourself liable to the most hair-raising torrents of abuse imaginable. Codger tells me that he once clipped a few superfluous shoots from a plum tree and that the plums spat stones and emitted such a string of blasphemy that he was arrested for broadcasting Fascist propaganda.

Best types of plums are the Coe's Golden Drop, the Ninepenny Nip, the Greengage, the Engage, the Sack, the Jefferson and Laxton's Utility and the Ribbentrop and Papen's Futility for dessert. Kitchen types are the Victoria, the New South Wales, the Bradman, the Belle de Louvain, the Monarch, the Czar, the Stalin and the Stalout.

Raspberries should be planted either in groups or in rows. Codger tells me that soft rows are preferable to hard, but I suspect either that he is confusing Mrs. Beeton with Micklehauser's Mould Manual, or else that the "Chest



"Tolstead Avenue—number sixty-seven—yes, tomatoes!"



and Hairs" barmaid has quarrelled with her fiancé and is making up to Codger with free intoxicants. This happened once before, I remember, when they were first engaged. I do not recall the exact date, but I do remember that it was about the time of the Coronation and what a sweet girl everybody thought Queen Victoria.

Cut raspberry canes down to an inch or two off the ground after planting and shorten tall varieties.

Strawberries!

Deep digging is essential for strawberries, but does not always meet with success. Codger and I have, on and off, been digging since 1927 for some plants which he stupidly put into the soil and completely covered up as a measure against frost. So far our total findings have been a bucket, a box of cod secured with a pair of chest expanders, and a radiator.

Nevertheless, Codger's heart is in the soil. He comes from a long family of Codgers, each of which is inseparably attached to the land. His people have turned over many, many clods of earth in the county of Eithersex since they ferried their way over from—who knows where? Perhaps they originated in Gascony; perhaps in the great plains of Bohemia; perhaps in the mountains of Norway, or in the lowlands of Denmark.

But Codger is free, and Codger's heart is in the soil.

And so it must be with every Englishman, and woman and child.

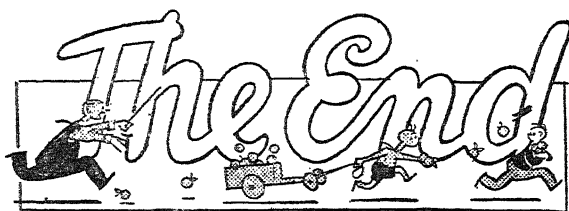
Every man and woman and child in the British Isles must be free. And to be thus, every man, woman and child must put his heart in the soil, the soil whence they came, on which they were bred and lived, the soil to which they will return. And in this way we shall feed our soldiers, sailors and airmen and our workers in shipyard, fire station

and factory. No longer shall we depend on those brave men who bring us food along the perilous seaways. Only make the British Isles self-supporting, a fortress within itself, and we shall crush the enemy. We shall smash German aggression into a million pieces. We shall tear Italian Fascism to shreds, and we shall administer such a kick in the pants to Tokyo that they won't know Axis from Axminster. Will we give 'em socks? We'll give 'em more socks than a ladies' league knits in nine months!

So get into the garden, men, women, children; get into the garden and dig and grow. Dig for Victory and Victory it will be, as surely as tomorrow's sun will rise above the trees behind the little church over at Mutch Hammering.

The "Chest and Hairs" is closed, and here comes Codger.

Plant in a warm, deep bed and leave undisturbed for some days.



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